Jour Comics

うらめしや

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魔木子

うらめし屋

URAMESHIYA
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魔木子

BY
MAKIKO

双葉社
FUTABASHA

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SFX: CICADA CRY
MEEEEE
MEEEEE
MEEEEE
I HATE SUMMER
...AND THE DEAD AND VENGEFUL SPIRITS BECOME MORE VIGOROUS AND THE TOWN OVERFLOWS WITH SWARMS OF THEM.
THE LIDS ON THE IRON POTS OF HELL OPEN...
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THIS SUMMER IS ESPECIALLY HOT...
...AND THANKS TO THAT, I HAVE ENDED UP LIKE THIS.
SHRIEK!
SHRIEK!

SHADOW STEP DEMON
URAMESHIYA VOLUME IV

踏み鬼

うらめしや Vol. IV

I'D RATHER NOT.
WHY NOT GO BY YOURSELF, SAJI?
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M SUFFERING FROM HEAT-STROKE.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING AT ALL.
YEAH BUT RECENTLY YOU'VE HARDLY BEEN EATING ANYTHING
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING SAKE EITHER LIKE YOU USED TO...
WHEN SOMEONE IS WEAKENED, EVEN SLIGHTLY, THE GHOSTS WILL FIND OUT...
...AND GLEEFULLY SWARM AROUND THEM.
HEY, OYOU ...
FINALLY, THE SUN IS SETTING.
WHY DON'T WE GO GET A BITE TO EAT?
I FOUND A PLACE THAT HAS DELICIOUS FOOD IN THE SNACK DISTRICT.
SHRIEK!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'VE GOT TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO EAT, OTHERWISE YOUR CONDITION WILL GET EVEN WORSE!
AHH, SHUT UP, WILL YOU!?
YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES, SO HURRY UP AND GO!

EEK!
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE LYING IN WAIT...
...TO TRICK PEOPLE .....
HA HA HA HA!
SAJI ...
FINE! I'LL BUY YOU SOMETHING COLD ON THE WAY BACK.
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
AT THIS TIME, IT'S CRAWLING WITH GHOSTS OUTSIDE.
OH... THEY'RE PLAYING "SHADOW TAG".
AH HA HA!
NEXT, YOU'RE "IT", MUTSU!
THE SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TRAVELERS STEPPED ON THE SHADOW!
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW!
SIGN
FOOD

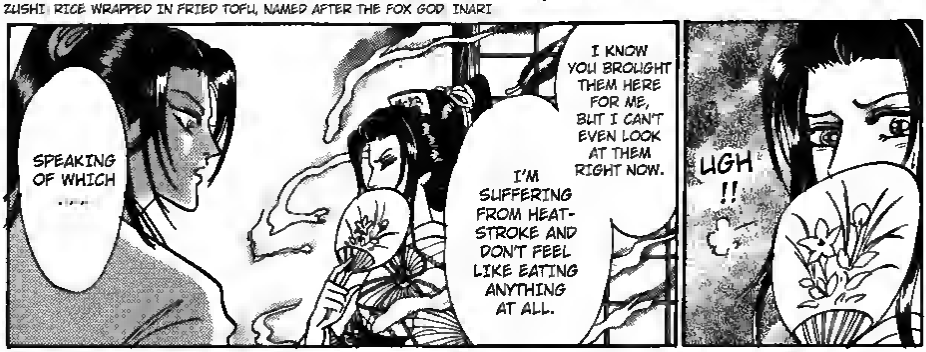
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW!
I'M JUST ABOUT TO SPRINKLE SOME WATER HERE.
HEY THERE, KIDS.
WHERE ARE THESE KIDS FROM, I WONDER?
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU PLAY A LITTLE FURTHER OVER THERE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM AROUND HERE BEFORE...
THE SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TRAVELERS!
TEE HEE!
YOU'RE "IT" NOW, LADY!
AHAHAHA
YOU'LL BE "IT" FOREVER!
ALRIGHT THEN ...
I CAN'T PLAY WITH YOU NOW, I'M BUSY.
S... SORRY ...

OEI!
HUH!?
WHY'RE YOU STANDING AROUND IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
SAJI!
AH... THE CHILDREN WERE PLAYING "SHADOW TAG"...
HUH?
THEY'RE NOT HERE. THAT'S WEIRD.
THEY WERE HERE JUST A SECOND AGO...
CHILD-REN ?
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FROM DOWN THE STREET.
THERE WEREN'T ANY CHILDREN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HUH ...?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT AT THE FRONT OF THE STORE, OEI?

AM I IN A DAZE BECAUSE OF THE HEAT?
OH NO... WHAT AM I DOING?
I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED... SAJI CAME HERE AT LONG LAST...
BUT ALL I COULD DO WAS STAND THERE ...
HEY, IT'S YOU, SAJI!
COME ON IN!
I'VE GOT SOME GOOD MANTIS SHRIMP TODAY!
IT'S BEEN SIMMERED UNTIL THE FLAVORS PERMEATE IT!
....!
THAT SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
YOUR COOKING IS OUT-STANDING!
TEE HEE!
TEE HEE HEE!
TEE HEE!
TEE HEE HEE!
HRMM!
PEEK!
GOOD EVENING ...

HMM... I SAW THAT NINCOMPOOP SAJI LEAVING HERE.
SINCE HE'S NOT HERE TO GET IN THE WAY, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR US TO MEET FACE TO FACE AND EAT INARI ZUSHI* TOGETHER...
THERE YOU GO AGAIN OYOU, TRYING TO ACT LIKE YOU'RE TROUBLED, BE HONEST!
FLAP FLAP
WHAT DO YOU WANT, YOU BASTARD FOX?
I AM TROUBLED, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART ...

*INARI ZUSHI: RICE WRAPPED IN FRIED TOFU, NAMED AFTER THE FOX GOD INARI


SPEAKING OF WHICH ...
I KNOW YOU BROUGHT THEM HERE FOR ME, BUT I CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT THEM RIGHT NOW.
I'M SUFFERING FROM HEAT-STROKE AND DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING ANYTHING AT ALL.
UGH !!

IT'S NO USE.
HOW'S THAT? YOU FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW, DON'T YOU?
...IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO LET ALL OF THESE CRUDE DEMONS GATHER AROUND YOU...
FLAP!
FLAP!
RUSTLE
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY'RE CHASED AWAY...
...AS LONG AS I'M IN THIS WEAKENED STATE, THEY KEEP ON APPEARING.
SEE?
RUSTLE

OH... "WEAKENED STATE", YOU SAY...?
I SEE .....
DUE TO MY FATHER'S ORDERS, I AM SWORN TO SERVE YOU.
I MOVED FROM INARI MOUNTAIN TO THE PLACE NEXT TO THE HAUNTED STREET FOR THAT VERY REASON...
SWISH!
AH... WHAT DO YOU WANT? YOU BASTARD FOX!?
THE TRUTH IS, THAT I, TOUKA, HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE EVER SINCE I FIRST DESIRED TO MAKE YOU MY BRIDE, OYOU.
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU...
EVERYONE THAT GETS INTIMATE WITH THE FOXES BECOMES ADDICTED TO IT...
CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENS, PROTECTED SERVANTS, MAY BLADES NEVER CUT YOU...
URK ...?
...NOR POISON EVER HARM YOU. THOSE THAT CURSE THE YOUNG, MAY YOUR MOUTHS BE SEALED .....
AAAGHHH!!!
M... MY HEAD ...IT HURTS!!

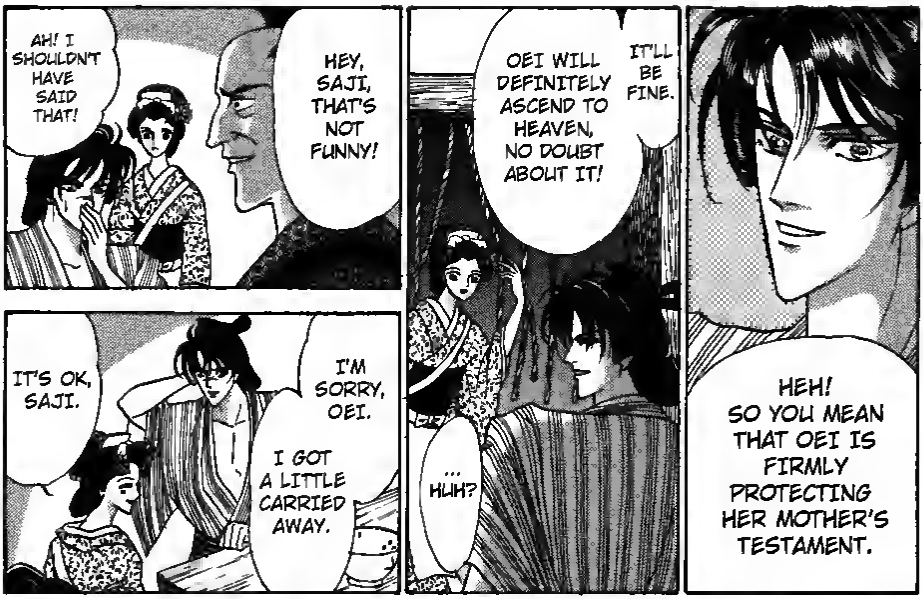
HUFF!
HELP ...
HELP ME.....
PUFF!
HUFF!
PUFF!
MENTOR OF THE CHILD KING, THE LIGHT OF WISDOM ...
ENFORCE WITHOUT FEAR..
BLESSED ARE THEE OH HOLY LIGHT...
I'VE BEHAVED BADLY! I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
AAAARGH!
AS I EXPECTED, THESE INCANTATIONS, TAUGHT TO ME BY GENGOROU KITSUNE, THE HEAD OF THE INARI MOUNTAIN CLAN, WORK VERY WELL.
HE TOLD ME "WHEN TOUKA STARTS TO MISBEHAVE, DO NOT HESITATE TO USE THIS INCANTATION TO PUNISH HIM".
SINCE THEN, A SERVANT HAS COME FROM INARI MOUNTAIN. HE IS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME.
MY... MY FATHER?
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID BEFORE! I'VE BEHAVED BADLY!
AAAARGH!
CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENS, PROTECTED SERVANTS ...
THE OBSESSION OF YOUTH, SEEING WONDERFUL SIGHTS...
DAMN THAT FATHER OF MINE!
THAT WAS UNNECESSARY!
GRIND!
GRIND!

WHEW !!
THAT WAS SOME GOOD EATIN'!
THE MANTIS CRAB BOILED IN SOY SAUCE WAS DELI-CIOUS!
IT ALWAYS FEELS GOOD TO SEE YOU EAT SO WELL, SAJI!
HERE YOU GO, IT'S A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!
THANKS TO THAT, I ATE THREE BOWLS OF RICE!
OH, ARE THOSE RICE FLOUR DUMPLINGS ?
OYOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO EAT THESE...
MMM !!
THEY GO DOWN NICELY!
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THEM.
I MADE THEM.
THEY'VE GOT LOTS OF SUGAR SPRINKLED ON THEM. THESE ARE TASTY TOO!
OEI, YOU'VE GOTTA TELL ME HOW TO MAKE THESE!
THERE'S A CERTAIN KNACK TO IT.
DROP THE ROUNDED DUMPLINGS INTO THE BOILING WATER...
EVEN IF THEY FLOAT TO THE TOP, DON'T SCOOP THEM OUT.
WAIT WHILE COUNTING TO FIFTY, THEN PUT THEM IN COLD WATER.

.....
AS EXPECTED OF YOU, OEI.
THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF A MASTER COOK.
YOU'RE READY TO MAKE A GOOD WIFE!
OH, STOP IT SAJI...
MADAM ...
HOLD ON..
OH...
HERE YOU ARE... I'M SORRY, THEY'RE JUST LEFTOVERS, BUT PLEASE, EAT THESE.
OEI, YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD DAUGHTER ...
ALL THE LOCAL RESIDENTS SAY SO.
THEY SAY YOU'RE GOOD-NATURED AND CHEERFUL ...
YOU'RE KIND AND DON'T DISCRI-MINATE AGAINST ANYONE...
AND NOT A SHRED OF ANGER, ENVY OR WICKEDNESS ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
OEI ...

HEY, POPS ...
I THOUGHT I SHOULD ASK YOU ...
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO RAISE SUCH A WONDERFUL DAUGHTER?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE A BOSATSU*, OEI!
OH, STOP IT!
YOU OVER-ESTIMATE ME!
*ONE WHO VOWS TO SAVE ALL BEINGS BEFORE BECOMING A BUDDHA

IF YOU HAVE SUCH THINGS IN YOUR HEART, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO HEAVEN.
SURE, EVEN AS HER FATHER, WHEN I SEE HER...
..I THINK WHAT A GOOD DAUGHTER SHE IS.
HER DECEASED MOTHER WAS SUCH A DEVOUT WOMAN.
WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD, HER MOTHER WOULD REPEATEDLY TELL HER...
LISTEN TO ME, OEI...
THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT, WHILE YOU ARE ALIVE, TO CONTINUE TO HAVE A RIGHTEOUS HEART.
LISTEN, A PERSON'S TRUE HAPPINESS COMES AFTER DEATH.
YOU MUST NEVER CURSE, ENVY OR HATE OTHERS...


AH! I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT!
HEY, SAJI, THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
OEI WILL DEFINITELY ASCEND TO HEAVEN, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
IT'LL BE FINE.
HEH! SO YOU MEAN THAT OEI IS FIRMLY PROTECTING HER MOTHER'S TESTAMENT.
IT'S OK, SAJI.
I'M SORRY, OEI.
I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
... HUH?

TSK! SOME TROUBLE-SOME CUSTOMERS HAVE SHOWN UP.
'SCUSE US!
GIVE US SOME SAKE!
COME ON IN!
THOSE GUYS ARE A MUCH-HATED BUNCH OF HOODLUMS.
RECENTLY THEY'VE BEEN SHOWING THEIR FACES IN THIS RESTAURANT.
THEY'VE HAD THEIR EYES ON OEI ...

WHAT'S WRONG? I JUST GAVE YOUR BUTT A LITTLE STROKE...
HOW ABOUT IT? WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US?
WE HEARD THAT YOU'RE AFFECTIONATE TOWARDS EVERYONE...
P...
PLEASE STOP IT...
THAT'S SO CUTE! ARE YOU STILL A VIRGIN, OEI?
SLIP...!
EEK!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, JACKASS?
CAN'T YOU SEE SHE DOESN'T LIKE THAT!?
OEI!
STOP THAT!
SMACK!!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU KEEP QUIET AND STAY OUT OF IT!?
YOU STUPID BASTARD!
I'M... JUST A CUSTOMER.
ARE YOU HER "ONE OF THESE"?
WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO DO WITH HER?

*A RAISED PINKY IS USED AS A GESTURE TO IMPLY A BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND RELATIONSHIP

CRASH!
YOU SCUM-BAG!
EEK!!
CLATTER!
BAM!
CLATTER!
SAJI !!
YOU'VE DONE IT NOW ...
FATHER !!
CRASH!
WHACK!
SHUT UP!
AGH !!
STOP !!
STOP THAT!
UGH ...
FATHER !!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

WE'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR TODAY.
TSK!
DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS!
.....
OW ... MY WRIST ...
FATHER !!

ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOUR FATHER GOT INJURED.
I WAS NO HELP AT ALL!
I WAS VERY HAPPY ABOUT THAT. THANK YOU.
IN FACT, YOU SAVED ME, SAJI.
SAJI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
I'M SORRY, OEI.
I CAN'T COOK AND SERVE THE FOOD ALL BY MYSELF.
THE SHOP WILL BE CLOSED FOR A WHILE.
HE TWISTED HIS WRIST .....
SAY, HOW IS YOUR FATHER'S INJURY?
SIGN: FOOD

IT'S A SHAME. LATELY, I'VE REALLY ENJOYED COMING HERE TO EAT THE DELICIOUS FOOD.
SAJI...
I'M SO SAD THAT...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU ...
...FOR A WHILE.
OH... NOTHING
PLEASE, YOU MUST COME BACK ONCE MY FATHER HAS RECOVERED FROM HIS INJURY.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU .....
HUH ?
I THINK IT'S A SHAME TOO...
SURE ...
I'LL DO THAT .....
TEE HEE HEE!
THE SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TRAVELERS!
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW!

SAJI ?
I THOUGHT YOU HAD SUCH A LONG FACE WHEN YOU CAME BACK, AND THEN YOU SUDDENLY STARTED MAKING SOMETHING IN THE KITCHEN.
COUNT TO FIFTY ...
ALRIGHT, THEY'RE DONE!
.....
I WANTED YOU TO EAT SOME, SO I WAS TAUGHT HOW TO MAKE THEM.
RICE FLOUR DUMP-LINGS ...?
TRY SOME!
I THINK THEY'RE GONNA TASTE GREAT!
RIGHT ?
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THEM!
I'VE GOTTA THANK OEI LATER!
OEI?
MUNCH
GULP ...
THEY'RE DELI-CIOUS !!

*HERE, HE EXPLAINS THE INCIDENT IN MORE DETAIL
I THOUGHT THAT I WANTED TO HELP IN SOME WAY...
BUT BECAUSE OF ME, THIS AND THAT HAPPENED...*
SO I FELT SORRY FOR HER.
SHE'S A GIRL FROM A RESTAURANT IN THE SNACK DISTRICT.
SHE'S A GOOD-NATURED, PRETTY GIRL.
IF YOU MET HER, YOU'D LIKE HER TOO.
I SEEM TO HAVE SUDDENLY LOST MY APPETITE.
WHAT'S UP? YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, OYOU?
CLINK!
.....
NEVER MIND...
I'LL HAVE TO GET OEI TO TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE SOME OTHER DISH...
SIGN: FOOD

TEE HEE!
UH...
THE SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TRAVEL-ERS...
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW ...
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW ...
YOU'RE THE "IT" ...
FOREVER ...
YOUIRE THE "IT" NOW, LADY...
SHWUP!
SWISH...

AH HA HA HA...
I KNOW IT!
THAT GIRL OEI DOESN'T REALLY MIND IT THAT MUCH!
GIRLS LIKE HER LOVE THAT KIND OF THING!
...HUH?
I HATE YOU...
I HATE YOU...

IT'S ...
...A DEMON WOMAN ...!!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT...
...THAT I CANNOT SEE SAJI ...
GWACK!
ERK ...?
AAARGH!!
I HATE YOU...
I HATE YOU ALL!!
GWOOOH!!!

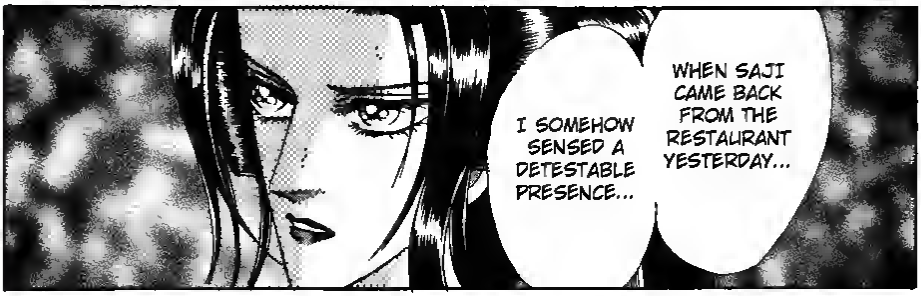
HOWEVER, THIS MORNING, I FEEL EVEN BETTER THAN USUAL.
HNNN ...!
MY BODY FEELS SO LIGHT!
SIGN FOOD
...WAS IT A DREAM ...?
IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS HAVING A STRANGE DREAM, BUT...
...I CAN'T REMEMBER IT.
I SHOULD DO THAT SINCE WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO GET SOME REGULAR CUSTOMERS.
I THOUGHT I WOULD AT LEAST DO THE DISHES THAT I AM ABLE TO MAKE.
YES, FATHER.
DO YOU INTEND TO OPEN THE SHOP?
OEI?
TH... THANK YOU...
SAJI ...
I MIGHT NOT BE OF MUCH USE, BUT I'VE COME TO HELP.
I CAN AT LEAST WASH THE DISHES.
I'VE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.
SAJI!
THAT'S GOOD OF YOU, OEI.

IT'S... PRETTY DIFFICULT ...
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
NOT LIKE THAT! YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE FISH FLAKES FINER!
HUH ...?
THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING YOU THE PROPER TRAINING.
YOU MIGHT BE THE ONE TO TAKE OVER THIS SHOP ONE DAY, RIGHT?
.....
I'M VERY SORRY.
THIS HAPPENED TO ME .....
I'M WORKING HARD IN HIS PLACE.
COME ON IN!
HMM? WHERE'S YOUR FATHER TODAY?
WELL THAT'S ALRIGHT
JUST GIVE US WHATEVER YOU CAN MAKE.
YEAH. TO US, YOUR SMILE IS MORE OF A TREAT THAN ANYTHING ELSE, OEI!

OH... BY THE WAY...
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THOSE THREE THUGS THAT OFTEN CAME TO THIS SHOP?
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WERE KILLED THIS MORNING IN THE HORIDOME AREA!
ALL THREE WERE KILLED IN A MOST HORRIFIC MANNER.
THE AREAS AROUND THEIR WINDPIPES WERE EATEN AWAY BY SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE SHARP FANGS.
IS THIS THE WORK OF FERAL DOGS?
YEAH, MAYBE ...
THOSE THREE MEN ...?
OEI ...
HOW AWFUL...
EVEN SO...
...SUCH A TERRIBLE THING...
OEI ...
I FEEL SUCH PITY FOR THEM.
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.
...NO.
THOSE MEN WERE OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS.
THIS IS THEIR PUNISH-MENT.

YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD GIRL, AREN'T YOU...
FWOOSH!
I HAVE RETURNED, OYOU.
AS YOU ORDERED, I WENT TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE RESTAU-RANT
AND SEE WHAT SAJI WAS DOING.
SO, WHAT WAS GOING ON, TOUKA?
USING THIS FACE, I PRETENDED TO BE A CUSTOMER AND THAT IMBECILE SAJI HAD NO IDEA IT WAS ME...
WELL ...
SAJI, THE BUFFOON WAS GAWPING AT HER LIKE THIS...
HE WAS FLIRTING OUTRAGEOUSLY WITH THAT OEI GIRL
PUFF
THAT'S NOT WHAT I TOLD YOU TO LOOK INTO, IS IT?
NEITHER OF THEM SEEMED AT ALL COY ABOUT IT ...
OH...
IT IS AS YOU SENSED, OYOU. THAT RESTAURANT IS BEING HAUNTED BY GHOSTS.
ON THE ROOF WERE ABOUT FIVE OR SIX THAT LOOKED LIKE CHILDREN...

AS I THOUGHT ...
FOR A HUMAN, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY THAT THEY WOULD STAND AGAINST THEM.
EVEN I, A FOX, WAS LEFT A LITTLE SHAKEN.
DESPITE THEIR APPEARANCE ...
THEY ARE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL GHOSTS.


I SOMEHOW SENSED A DETESTABLE PRESENCE...
WHEN SAJI CAME BACK FROM THE RESTAURANT YESTERDAY...

WHAT DO I THINK ...?
HAVE YOU FALLEN HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE WITH HER?
BY THE WAY, SAJI...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OEI FROM THAT RESTAURANT?
WH.. WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT!?
ME? AND OEI!?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT !!
COLD SOUP OF FRIED EGGPLANT
HERE YOU ARE, OYOU.
.....
THIS AND THAT
TODAY, THE OWNER OF THE RESTAURANT TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE DELICIOUS SOUP.

SHE'S A WONDERFUL GIRL.
THERE'S NOT A SHRED OF WICKEDNESS IN HER. SHE'S LIKE A BOSATSU.
HOWEVER, THAT'S WHY I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF HER AS A POTENTIAL SEXUAL PARTNER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
WITH A GIRL THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANY IMPURE INTENTIONS, I GUESS I CAN'T HAVE ANY IMPURE INTENTIONS EITHER.
TO ME, OEI IS BELOVED LIKE A YOUNGER SISTER.
THAT'S THE KIND OF GIRL SHE IS.
WELL, YEAH.
OYOU, YOU'RE MY WOMAN.
GETTING INFATUATED WITH OTHER WOMEN WOULD BE PRETTY IMPURE, WOULDN'T IT?
HEH! SO TO YOU, SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE IMPURE, ARE THEY?
.....
SIP SIP
IT'S DELICIOUS, SAJI.

BUT SAJI...
YEAH ...?
ARE THERE REALLY PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD THAT DON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF WICKEDNESS IN THEIR HEARTS?
EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD IS COMPRISED OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS, SUNLIGHT AND SHADOW.
THE SAME IS TRUE OF HUMAN EMOTION.
SPITE, HATRED, ENVY AND VANITY...
IF ONE CAN AVOID BEING LED ASTRAY BY THE DARKNESS OF THE HEART...
..AND CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH A HEART COMPRISED ONLY OF LIGHT...
...THAT PERSON MIGHT NO LONGER BE HUMAN.
IS THAT SO?
THERE ARE. OEI REALLY IS THAT KIND OF GIRL.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, OYOU?
PLEASE, STOP GOING TO THAT RESTAURANT.
IT MIGHT ALSO BE BETTER IF YOU STOP SEEING THAT GIRL, OEI.
HEY, OYOU ...
YOU THINK THAT OEI IS SOME KIND OF MONSTER, DON'T YOU?
.....

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
THERE ARE SOME THINGS...
...THAT EVEN YOU SHOULDN'T SAY!!
FWOOSH!!
HO HO!
GET LOST, TOUKA!
TO SEE HIM GET THIS ANGRY ABOUT IT, IT WOULD SEEM THAT HE REALLY IS...
TREATING THAT SWEET GIRL LIKE A MONSTER...
I JUST THINK THAT I SHOULD SUPPORT THAT GIRL'S FAITH WITH FAITH OF MY OWN.
OYOU, YOUR VISION HAS BECOME CLOUDED BECAUSE OF YOUR HEATSTROKE.
SIP SIP
ALRIGHT, I GET IT, SAJI.
DO AS YOU PLEASE.
BUT IF IT ALL ENDS IN TEARS, IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
.....
WHY, OYOU?
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?
I WANT THEM TO TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE MORE DISHES.

IT'S JUST THAT...
IF I MAKE SOMETHING FOR YOU, YOU'LL EAT IT, WON'T YOU?
I DECIDED TO COME HERE FOR YOUR SAKE.
COME ON IN!
THREE RICE FLOUR DUMPLINGS!
COMING RIGHT UP!
AH...
HOLD ON...
YES?
COULD YOU GET THAT MAN TO BRING THE RICE FLOUR DUMPLINGS?
HEY, DID YOU SAY HIS NAME IS "SAJI"?
OITO HERE, FROM THE PHARMACY SAW HIM HERE AND FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
EEK!
STOP IT!

SUCH A PRETTY AND WEALTHY YOUNG LADY FELL IN LOVE WITH SAJI AT FIRST SIGHT.....?
THEY WANT ME TO TAKE IT?
SURE, I DON'T MIND.
.....?
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
EEK!
SEE, SEE, OITO!
TEE HEE HEE!
♪ SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TRAVELERS!
TEE HEE!
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW!
TEE HEE!
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW! ♪

SNIFF
SNIFF
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
THE TOWN BEAUTY, OITO FROM THE PHARMACY WAS KILLED LAST NIGHT!
YEAH, SOMEONE CAME INTO HER ROOM AND BIT HER WINDPIPE OUT...
WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE.
DON'T CRY, OEI.
BUT...
BUT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE DYING IN SUCH AN AWFUL WAY, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.....
SHE WAS SUCH A PRETTY YOUNG LADY.....
I FEEL SO...
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HER...
IS THIS A COINCI-DENCE ...?
ONE AFTER ANOTHER, PEOPLE ARE BEING KILLED IN THE AREA AROUND THIS RESTAURANT ...
AND ALL IN THE SAME ATROCIOUS WAY...
COULD IT BE AS OYOU SAID?
THAT OEI...?

WOW, LOOK AT YOU TWO!
NO... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
YOU MAKE A NICE COUPLE.
SAJI, I THINK THAT SOMEDAY, IT'LL BE ALRIGHT FOR ME TO LET YOU BE WITH OEI.
WHEN SAJI STARTED COMING TO THE SHOP, YOU BEGAN PUTTING A LITTLE BIT OF LIPSTICK ON FOR THE FIRST TIME.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU'VE NEVER DONE THAT FOR ANY CUSTOMER BEFORE.
I KNOW FULL WELL THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON SAJI FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.
FATHER !!
WAIT ...
PLEASE, HOLD ON!
BEFORE LONG, WITH THE PROPER TRAINING, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER THIS SHOP.
SAJI IS ALSO A PRETTY TALENTED COOK.
THERE'S A WOMAN THAT I'M LIVING WITH RIGHT NOW...
ALTHOUGH WE'RE NOT MARRIED YET, SHE'S JUST LIKE A WIFE TO ME...
I HATE TO SAY THIS BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT...

WHO IS THIS WOMAN ...?
HER NAME IS OYOU, FROM THE HAUNTED STREET IN SUDAMACHI.
IS SHE OYOU, THE "URAMESHIYA", BY ANY CHANCE...?
THAT'S RIGHT .....
I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT THAT WOMAN.
SHE'S A SUSPICIOUS WOMAN WHO DECEIVES PEOPLE INTO THINKING SHE HAS SOME KIND OF SPIRIT POWER AND DEALS IN EERIE THINGS LIKE GHOSTS AND MONSTERS.
I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO CUT ALL TIES WITH THAT WOMAN IMMEDIATELY AND BE WITH MY OEI.
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
EVEN FOR YOU, A MAN I RESPECT LIKE A FATHER, THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T SAY!
WHAT !?
OYOU'S SPIRIT POWERS ARE FOR REAL!
SHE'S ALSO A GOOD WOMAN!
THAT WOMAN IS ONE OF A KIND AND IS VERY DEAR TO ME!
I'M NOT JUST GONNA STAND BY QUIETLY AND LET YOU SAY SUCH SLANDEROUS THINGS ABOUT HER!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT WOMAN IS BETTER THAN MY OEI!?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I LOVE OYOU WITH ALL MY HEART!
S... STOP IT, FATHER!
SAJI ...
PLEASE ...
GET OUT... GET OUT OF HERE! HOW COULD I GIVE MY BELOVED OEI TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
OH, IS THAT SO!? I REFUSE ANYWAY!
SLAM!
.....
DON'T CRY, OEI.
GIVE UP ON THAT MAN.
I'LL FIND A BETTER HUSBAND FOR YOU.
TO BE DECEIVED BY OYOU THE URAMESHIYA ...
THAT KIND OF MAN IS NO GOOD ...

YEP. I'M AN IDIOT.
I NEVER DREAMED THAT OEI COULD'VE FALLEN FOR ME.
OEI IS KIND TO EVERYONE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.
THAT'S WHY...
AND THEN YOU HAD AN ARGUMENT AND CAME BACK HERE?
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.
I... I'VE REALLY HURT OEI'S FEELINGS.
I COULDN'T HELP IT... I SAID SUCH STUPID, MEAN THINGS...
I'VE GOTTA GO AND APOLOGIZE!
TO TELL HER I'M SORRY...
SAJI...
WILL YOU MAKE ME SOMETHING TONIGHT?
HUH...?
LATELY, I'VE BEEN ENJOYING YOUR COOKING.
THANKS TO THAT, I'VE BEEN WELL NOURISHED AND THESE SILLY LITTLE DEMONS HARDLY COME NEAR ME...

I'M REALLY HUNGRY.
OYOU ...
YOU CAN APOLOGIZE TO OEI TOMORROW, CAN'T YOU?
ALRIGHT THEN!
TONIGHT, WE'RE HAVING GRATED YAM WITH RICE!
IT'LL HELP YOU GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK!
SOUNDS GOOD.
I'M GONNA GO BUY SOME YAMS.
WAIT HERE.
TOUKA ...
FWOOSH!
HE'S A SIMPLE AND EASILY MANIPULATED MAN, ISN'T HE?
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MURDERS OF THOSE THREE AT HORIDOME AND THE DAUGHTER OF THE PHARMACIST?
YES.
BE CARE-FUL.
THE SAME BLACK SHADOW THAT APPEARED AT THOSE TIMES IS HEADING STRAIGHT HERE.
MY COMRADES SCATTERED ACROSS EDO INFORMED ME OF THIS.

SAJI'S BELOVED ...
OYOU THE URAMESHIYA ...
OEI ...?
SHE WORE HERSELF OUT FROM CRYING AND FELL ASLEEP .....
I'M JEALOUS OF YOU ...
I HATE YOU ...
I HATE YOU ...
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A SHADOW ...?
OEI'S SHADOW ...

OYOU, HERE, TAKE THIS ...
THIS SHORT SWORD IS FULL OF SPIRIT POWER THE INARI DEITIES.
WITH THIS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLAY THAT OMINOUS SHADOW.
OYOU!
IT'S HERE!
RIP!
RIP!

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS MONSTER IS AFTER ME.
GRRR...
TOUKA !!
STOP!
GRRRR!!
THIS SHADOW IS...
...HAS INTENSE WICKEDNESS SWIRLING ALL AROUND IT.
IT HAS BEEN SUPPRESSED AND SEALED AWAY.
THAT'S WHY ...
THE DARKNESS IN HER HEART HAS SWOLLEN TO MANY TIMES THE SIZE OF THAT OF A NORMAL PERSON.
YOU'RE OEI, AREN'T YOU .....?
YOU'RE OEI'S SHADOW.
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT?
OYOU !!
GWOOOH!!

SLASH!!
GWOOOOH!!!
OEI ...?
...IT HURTS ...
MY ARM... IT HURTS ...
IT DISAPP-EARED ...
THE SHADOW SUDDENLY VANISHED, OYOU.

SIGN: BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE
火の用心
HMPH! THANKS TO YOU, JUST NOW...
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
SHUT UP, TOUKA!
OYOU, I GOT THE YAMS!
I WANT TO THANK HER FOR TAKING CARE OF YOU.
I ALSO WANT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PERSON THIS "GIRL WITHOUT WICKEDNESS" AS YOU CALL HER IS...
HUH ...?
SAJI, WHEN YOU GO TO APOLOGIZE TO OEI TOMORROW, CAN YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
SAJI!
W... WELL ...
I DON'T REALLY MIND.

I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
I REALLY MUST APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED ...
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT ...
OEI, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?
DID YOU HURT YOURSELF ?
NO...
THERE'S NO WOUND OR ANYTHING BUT...
IT SUDDENLY STARTED HURTING LAST NIGHT...
IT FEELS JUST LIKE THE PAIN FROM BEING CUT BY A BLADE...
IT STILL HURTS NOW.
OEI... THIS IS OYOU.
SHE SAID SHE JUST *HAD* TO MEET YOU...
OH! OYOU!

I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
I REALLY WANTED TO MEET YOU...
...TO MEET SAJI'S BELOVED.
OEI .....
AS I THOUGHT, YOU ARE A VERY BEAUTIFUL LADY...
SAJI IS VERY LUCKY!
HMPH.
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU.
OYOU ?

I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT.
YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH SAJI, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY WOULD THAT SORT OF WOMAN BE SO COURTEOUS TOWARD ME?

IF... IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH SAJI, THAT'S GOOD.
NO... DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
I JUST WANT THE PERSON I LIKE TO BE HAPPY.
THAT KIND OF INSINCERITY MAKES ME FEEL EVEN MORE UNEASY.
OYOU !!
YOU HATE ME DON'T YOU?
YOU FEEL BITTER, DON'T YOU?
DON'T YOU FIND YOURSELF THINKING THAT YOU WISH I WAS GONE?

IF YOU DO THAT ...
...YOU WILL BE SAVED.
DON'T GIVE IN, ABUSE ME WITH SOME FOUL LANGUAGE...
.....
NOW IS THE TIME ...
DON'T HOLD BACK, RELEASE YOUR HEART OF DARKNESS...
COME ON...
I HAVEN'T SUNK SO THAT LOW THAT I WOULD ALLOW A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU TO TAKE AWAY MY LOVER
YOU HATE ME DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE FRUST-RATED, AREN'T YOU?
GEEZ. SHUT UP, WILL YOU!?
STOP IT, OYOU!
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!
YOUR SHADOW WILL LOSE IT'S POWER TO TAKE THE FORM OF A DEMON.

COME ON...
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING OF THE SORT!
AND "IT'S ABSURD THAT A LITTLE GIRL LIKE HER WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH ME".
COME ON...
LAST NIGHT YOU LAUGHED AND SAID TO ME...
"I DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF OEI".

IT'S FINE, SAJI.
IT IS AS OYOU SAYS...
HEE HEE!
OEI!
SAJI, OYOU ...
I HOPE YOU ARE HAPPY TOGETHER
BOW!
I WILL BE SECRETLY PRAYING FOR YOUR HAPPINESS ...
OEI ...
I DIDN'T KNOW MY PLACE.
TO THINK THAT A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING GIRL LIKE ME COULD FALL FOR SAJI...
OYOU, WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
OH... IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
MY HEATSTROKE HAS COME BACK AGAIN, THAT'S ALL.
OYOU ...
WHY WERE YOU TREATING OEI SO BADLY JUST NOW!?
OYOU !!
GRRR!
.....

OBI'S SHADOW WILL APPEAR AGAIN SOME TIME TONIGHT.
IT WILL BE SEETHING WITH EVEN MORE HATRED THAN BEFORE...
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW!
THE SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TREVELERS!
FOOLISH GIRL...
I ONLY WANTED TO BREAK THE CURSE THAT THAT HAS BEFALLEN YOU...
TONIGHT WE'RE HAVING HOT POT!
IT'S SAID THAT THIS IS THE BEST THING FOR HEATSTROKE.
OYOU !!
HOW CAN YOU SO NONCHALANTLY SIT THERE EATING DINNER!?
EAT UP, OYOU.
WHAT'S UP, TOUKA?
YOU WANT SOME?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!!

I FEEL SUCH FRUSTR-ATION ...
I HATE YOU...
I HATE YOU...
I KNOW ...
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
THAT THING WILL COME BACK AGAIN!!
IT WILL BE EVEN BIGGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE!!
IF YOU KNOW THEN, HERE, TAKE THIS SHORT SWORD!
IF THAT THING ISN'T PROPERLY FINISHED OFF, THEN WE'LL BE KILLED!
..... WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON!? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HUH!? THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN TO YOU!
IT'S HERE!

GWOOOOH!!!
I HATE YOU...
OYOU ...
I HATE YOU...
I'M SO BITTER ...
THIS THING ...
WHAT IS...
SLASH
ACK !!
TOUKA !!
BAM!

OYOU, IT CAN ONLY BE SLAIN WITH THAT SHORT SWORD!
DRAW THE SWORD!
WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?
IF I SLAY THE SHADOW...
THAT GIRL WILL PROBABLY ...
THAT GIRL WILL ...
.....
OYOU !?
OYOU !!
WATCH OUT!
GIVE ME THAT!
I'LL DO IT!
KEP-CHAK!
SAJI !!
SHING!
I'LL TAKE YOU ON!!
BRING IT ON!! YOU DAMNED MONSTER !!

STOP !!
SAJI !!
IF YOU WON'T COME AT ME, HERE I COME!
S...
SAJI ?
BOOOOM!!

EEEEEEEEK!!
THE SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TRAVELERS!
STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW!

HOW BORING!
I WANTED TO PLAY WITH THAT LADY A FOR A LITTLE LONGER...
WE SHOULD LOOK FOR THE NEXT "IT"!
TEE HEE HEE!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
TEE HEE!
LET'S DO THAT!
SNIFF!
SNIFF!
SAJI, THAT'S ENOUGH STOP CRYING
UHH... UH...
BUT ...
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THAT OEI WOULD SUDDENLY DIE LIKE THIS...
WELL THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT, IS THERE?
THERE ARE NO EXTERNAL INJURIES, SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN A SUDDEN HEART ATTACK...
IT SEEMS THAT HER FATHER THE RESTAURANT OWNER WENT BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN OF SHIMOUSA...
HOLDING HIS DAUGHTER'S BONES*...

*IN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE FUNERALS, THE BONES OF THE DECEASED ARE REMOVED FROM THE ASHES AFTER CREMATION AND PLACED IN AN URN

OYOU ...
BEFORE, I JOKINGLY SAID THAT...
...IF OEI DIED, SHE WOULD GO TO HEAVEN ...
THE POWER OF MY WORDS IS WHAT CAUSED HER TO DIE...!
YOU FOOL, THAT'S NOT IT.
EXACTLY! THAT WASN'T "THE POWER OF YOUR WORDS"...
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID TO OEI'S SHADOW ...
TOUKA !!
IF YOU SPEAK OUT OF TURN, I'LL USE THAT INCANTATION.
EEE ...
...EEK ...
OYOU ...
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN THINKING ...
THE MONSTER FROM THAT NIGHT, IS IT POSSIBLE...
...THAT IT WAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH OEI...?
YOU IDIOT.
HOW COULD SUCH A GOOD GIRL BECOME A MONSTER LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE RIGHT ...
...SHE WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE GONE TO HEAVEN
SHE WAS SUCH A GOOD GIRL...
...SHE MUST HAVE...

IF SOMEONE ONLY POSSESS ONE OR THE OTHER...
WHILE SWAYING BETWEEN THE TWO...
WHILE MAINTAINING THAT DANGEROUS BALANCE...
STRUGGLING AND SUFFERING ...
...IS WHAT IT MEANS FOR A PERSON TO BE ALIVE.
...PERHAPS IN THE END, THEY WILL ONLY MEET THEIR DEMISE.
TO HAVE BOTH SIDES TO ONE'S HEART IS TO BE HUMAN.
SUNLIGHT AND SHADOW
DARKNESS AND LIGHT
LET'S PLAY SHADOW STEP DEMON!
COME AND PLAY WITH US!
TEE HEE HEE HEE...
LET'S PLAY!
COME HERE!
COME HERE!
GIMME SOME MONEY ...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
GIMME SOME MONEY ...
TEE HEE HEE
MEEEEE
MEEEEE

SAJI WILL MAKE US SOME DELICIOUS RICE FLOUR DUMPLINGS.
NOW, COME WITH ME.
YOU MUSTN'T GO.
SUTE ...
I HATE SUMMER.
LET'S PLAY!
C'MON LET'S PLAY!
TSK !!
THE DEAD AND VENGEFUL SPIRITS ...
...BECOME MORE VIGOROUS AND THE TOWN OVERFLOWS WITH SWARMS OF THEM
MY POWERS CAN BARELY KEEP THEM AT BAY...
EEEK!
THE SHADOW OF THE GOD OF TRAVELERS!
HA HA HA ...
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW!
END OF VOLUME IV
SHADOW STEP DEMON

DARLING, I SAW IT AGAIN.
LAST NIGHT, AROUND THAT GIRL...
IT WAS EERIE.
AND TERRI-FYING...
WHILE SHE IS MY CHILD AND I FELT THE PAIN IN MY STOMACH FROM HER BIRTH...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL AFRAID OF HER...

URAMESHIYA VOLUME V

うらめしや Vol.V

化け物屋敷

HAUNTED MANSION

COME ON! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
THE RENOWNED "HAUNTED MANSION" IS HERE!
IT'S EXTREMELY TERRIFYING!
THE LONG-NECKED WOMAN, THE THREE-EYED MONK, MADOU*, THE DEAD MOTHER...
*MADOU: AN OLD WOMAN, OFTEN WITH AN EXTREMELY LARGE FACE, THAT PLACES CURSES PEOPLE.
IT'D BE A SHAME TO MISS IT!
YOU'D REGRET IT FOREVER!
BANNER: MADOU
LANTERNS: LARGE CAPACITY
BANNER: HAUNTED MANSION
HAUNTED MANSION ?
YOU PAY ON THE WAY OUT!

GRRR!
IT'S BOUND TO BE SOME SHODDY CONTRAPTIONS OR PUPPETS.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT LAUGHABLE TO YOU, THOUGH.
IT'S A HAUNTED MANSION SHOW.
HEY, OYOU!
THIS LOOKS KIND OF INTERESTING, DON'T YOU THINK?
COME ON IN!
LET'S TAKE A LOOK!
HEY LISTEN UP, BUDDY!
I CAN'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH SAYING THAT!
OUR SHOW IS NOTHING LIKE THAT!
IT'S COMPLETELY DARK INSIDE
I CAN'T SEE A THING!
SINCE YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, I'VE JUST GOTTA SEE IT!
IT'LL MAKE YOU SCARED TO YOUR STOMACH AND YOUR EYES SPIN WITH FEAR!
RUSTLE...
TWO PEOPLE COMING IN...!
.....

*RASETSU = A TYPE OF EVIL SPIRIT

WOOOOAH!
I AM THE LONG-NECKED WOMAN. OGIN...
WE WELCOME YOUR PATRONAGE .....
UHH ...
BAM!
WOOOOAH!
HEY, THAT HURT.
YOU OUGHTA WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

AAARGH!
WOOOOH!
EEEEK!
HEY BUDDY, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD A PRETTY GOOD TIME!
HEE HEE
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF

IT WAS AS I SAID, WASN'T IT?
ALRIGHT, THE FEE IS 92 MON* FOR TWO PEOPLE.
*OLD JAPANESE MONEY
IT'S A LITTLE ANNOYING BUT I REALLY WAS SCARED FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART AND THE PIT OF MY STOMACH.
WHAT ON EARTH WERE THOSE CONTRAPTIONS?
THEY WERE JUST LIKE REAL MONSTERS!
...
OYOU!
SAJI!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOU'RE SO CRUEL! YOU LEFT ME ALONE IN THE INARIZUSHI STAND!
TSK! IT'S TOUKA KITSUNE.
I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
EVEN SO, YOU STILL CAME ALONG ANYWAY.
I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO INVITE OYOU TO COME...
AND IT WAS A CHANCE FOR THE TWO OF US TO HAVE FUN TOGETHER..
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
WHENEVER I COME TO RYOUGOKU, IT'S ALWAYS SUCH A LIVELY PLACE.
IF YOU GET CARELESS, IT'S EASY TO GET SEPARATED.
COME ON!
ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
THE RENOWNED "HAUNTED MANSION" IS HERE!
D... DARLING...
Y... YES.
YOU PAY ON THE WAY OUT!

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
HUH ...?
O... OHATSU !!
IS YOUR NAME OHATSU BY ANY CHANCE?
IT'S... TRUE ...
MY DEAR ...
OHATSU ..
I AM YOUR MOTHER!
YOU ARE OUR DAUGHTER ...
NO THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT.
YOU HAVE A BIRTH MARK LIKE A CHERRY BLOSSOM PETAL ON THE NAPE OF YOUR NECK.
YOUR NAME IS OHATSU.
AND YOUR FACE LOOKS A LOT LIKE MINE.
BANNER HAUNTED MANSION
WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU FOR THIRTEEN YEARS. YOU'RE OUR DAUGHTER, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
W... WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I AM THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE GROUP OF PEDDLERS, WHO OWN THIS STAND.

PAH!
YOU THERE !! WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO OUR OHATSU !?
OHATSU ...!
OHATSU !! WE REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU!
WAIT
STOP IT!
KIN'YA !!
TH... THAT GIRL IS OUR DAUGHTER!
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, WHEN SHE WAS THREE YEARS OLD, SHE WAS SPIRITED AWAY. THERE'S NO MISTAKE, SHE'S OUR DAUGHTER!
GIVE OHATSU BACK TO US!
YOU KIDNAPPED OHATSU!

HNNN'
STOP
!!

COME ON, QUICKLY!
THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW.
WH... WHO ARE YOU?
THAT WOMAN .....
IF WE STAY HERE, THERE COULD BE TROUBLE.
THOSE GUYS PATROLLING THE AREA AROUND THIS BUSY STREET HEARD THE COMMOTION AND ARE COMING THIS WAY.
BANNER: DUMPLINGS
I AM SOUEMON OUMIYA AND THIS IS MY WIFE, OKICHI. WE RUN A RICE WHOLESALERS IN FUKAWA.
OUR ONLY DAUGHTER OHATSU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED THIRTEEN YEARS AGO WHEN SHE WAS THREE YEARS OLD.
AT THE FESTIVAL
I TOOK MY EYES OFF HER FOR JUST A MOMENT AND I LOST SIGHT OF HER
THEN, WE SEARCHED DESPERATELY FOR OUR DAUGHTER...
WE TRIED ALL POSSIBLE MEANS BUT WE COULDN'T FIND A SINGLE CLUE AS TO HER WHEREABOUTS...
THERE WERE RUMORS THAT SHE HAD BEEN SPIRITED AWAY...

OHATSU WAS PROBABLY KIDNAPPED BY THE PEDDLERS FROM THAT STAND.
POOR OHATSU ...
SUCH A YOUNG GIRL IS BEING USED TO CALL PEOPLE IN TO THE STAND...
SHE DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE ...
AND THEN, TODAY ... AT LONG LAST ...
THAT GIRL AT THE SHOW STAND ...
...IS WITHOUT A DOUBT, OUR DAUGHTER, OHATSU...
WE HAVE BEEN CONTINOUSLY SEARCHING FOR HER FOR THIRTEEN YEARS.
EVEN SO, WE NEVER GAVE UP.
NOW, WE INTEND TO PLEAD TO THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.
THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL DEFINITELY GET OUR DAUGHTER BACK FOR US...
WE THOUGHT THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET HER...
WHENEVER WE HAVE TIME, WE COME TO LIVELY PLACES LIKE THIS ONE.
YOU SHOULD GIVE IT UP.
HUH ...?
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE LIKE WILL BE OF NO USE... AGAINST THAT GROUP ...
OUMIYA ...
CAN YOU LEAVE THIS TO ME?
I SHALL TAKE BACK YOUR DAUGHTER FROM THAT GROUP.

I'VE HEARD OF HER BEFORE.
I AM OYOU THE URAMESHIYA OF THE HAUNTED STREET IN NAGASU-MACHI.
I AM OYOU
BUT WHO ARE YOU...?
TAKE HER BACK, YOU SAY ...?
OYOU THE URAME-SHIYA ...
SHE POSSESSES EXTRA-ORDINARY SPIRITUAL POWER...
SHE DEALS IN CONSULTATION OF MATTERS PERTAINING TO GHOSTS AND MONSTERS.
OYOU THE URAMESHIYA ...?
HNNN!
SHE'S A WOMAN THAT NO DECENT PERSON WOULD GO ANYWHERE NEAR.....
SHE'S A SUSPICIOUS AND BEWITCHING WOMAN. MANY PEOPLE DESPISE HER.
WHISPER WHISPER
STOP IT, SAJI.
IN SPITE OF THE KINDNESS SHE'S SHOWING YOU!
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT !?
HEY, YOU TWO!!

DOESN'T THAT PISS YOU OFF?
HEY!
WAIT, OYOU!
.....
IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE NEEDLESSLY INTERFERED.
FORGET ABOUT IT, OUMIYA.
MOTHER! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!
MOTHER!
HMPH.
I'M USED TO IT.
THERE IS A TENKA ON OUR ROOF!
HEY...
IT'S REALLY BAD!
IT'S A FIRE MONSTER!
TENKA ...?
IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, OUR HOUSE WILL BE BURNED DOWN!
...SAYING THOSE EERIE THINGS AGAIN.....
OYOU...
YOU'RE...

*NOPPEI SOUP = SOUP WITH FRIED TOFU, SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS, CARROTS, SWEET POTATOES AND DAIKON FLAVORED WITH SALT OR SOY SAUCE AND THICKENED WITH POTATO STARCH.

HEY, OYOU ...
YES ...?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE OUMIYA COUPLE FROM YESTERDAY?
WERE THEY ABLE TO GET THEIR DAUGHTER BACK SAFELY?
I WAS PRETTY PISSED OFF AT THE TIME BUT...
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT IT.
YES, ME TOO .....
SAY, OYOU ...
YOU SAID TO ME BEFORE THAT...
YOU WERE TREATED WITH FEAR AND ABANDONED BY YOUR OWN PARENTS...
I'VE BEEN AN ORPHAN SINCE I WAS BORN, SO I'VE NEVER KNOWN MY PARENTS.
.....
THINK BACK TO THAT TIME...
I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE GOING TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO HELP THAT COUPLE
WE WERE NEVER BLESSED WITH PARENTS LIKE THEM SO THAT MIGHT BE WHY...
...WE FELT THE NEED TO KINDLY SUPPORT THE OUMIYA COUPLE

FWOOM!
OYOU THE URAME-SHIYA ...
ENTER: OUMIYA
OUMIYA ...?
HELLO ...
SORRY TO CALL ON YOU SO LATE AT NIGHT
IS THIS THE HOUSE OF OYOU THE URAMESHIYA ...?
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED ?
H...
HOLD ON A MOMENT!
PLEASE, LEND US YOUR ASSISTANCE!
WE MUST APOLOGIZE FOR OUR RUDENESS TOWARDS YOU YESTERDAY.
...THIS AS OUR APOLOGY!
PLEASE ACCEPT ...
WHATEVER CAN WE DO.....?
IT... MAKES US SHIVER JUST REMEMB-ERING IT...
.....AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, WE WAITED UNTIL NIGHTFALL AND WENT BACK TO THE SHOW STAND.

AFTER THE SHOWS HAD ENDED AND THE CUSTOMERS HAD LEFT...
WE THOUGHT WE WOULD TRY TO CAREFULLY NEGOTIATE WITH THE PEDDLERS .....
THEN ...
WE SECRETLY PEEKED INSIDE THE STAND...
...AND WE SAW AN UNBELIEVABLE SPECTACLE...
GOOD WORK, EVERY-ONE!
WE HAD A LOT OF CUSTOMERS AGAIN TODAY!
WHEW
I'M BEAT ...
MOTHER, GRANDPA, GRANDMA, OGIN AND KIN'YA...
WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE BACK TO YOUR REAL FACES?
YOU MUST BE TIRED ...
...OF PRETEN-DING TO BE HUMAN ...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
REALLY TIRED ...
WELL THEN ...
LET'S RETURN TO OUR TRUE FORMS
YES ...
LET'S DO THAT ...

W...
WAIT A MOMENT!
THAT HAUNTED MANSTION .....
COULD IT BE .....
YES. IT WAS A FRONT FOR REAL MONSTERS.
.....
HOWEVER, OHATSU IS THE ONLY NORMAL HUMAN THERE.
ISN'T IT GREAT ...
WILL MY NECK GROW ALL LONG AND SMOOTH LIKE OGIN'S ANYTIME SOON, I WONDER...
OR WILL I GROW HORNS LIKE KIN'YA...?
I REALLY LIKE YOUR TRUE FORM, KIN'YA.
YOUR EYES THAT GLOW RED AND YOUR SHARP FANGS ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL TOO.
WILL I ALWAYS BE THIS USELESS?
I'M SORRY EVERYONE ...
I CAN'T APPEAR IN THE SHOW ...
ALL I CAN DO IS DRAW IN CUSTOMERS ...
OHA-TSU ...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, OHATSU?
WHEN YOU HAVE COME OF AGE, YOU WILL, SURELY...
YOU THINK SO?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'LL BECOME A MORE FRIGHTENING MONSTER THAN ANYONE!

GROW UP QUICKLY...
ONCE YOU HAVE GROWN UP...
...YOU WILL BECOME MINE.
WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, YOU SAID TO ME...
HEY, YOU MADE A PROMISE, DIDN'T YOU!?
...WHEN THAT TIME COMES, MAKE ME YOUR BRIDE, KIN'YA.
ONCE I COME OF AGE AND AM ABLE TO BECOME THE SAME AS ALL OF YOU...
OHA-TSU ...
I'M SO HAPPY THAT I WASN'T BORN A HUMAN.....
MOTHER SAID... THAT WE'RE NOT LIKE HUMANS. BROTHERS AND SISTERS CAN BECOME HUSBANDS AND WIVES...
"YOU WILL BECOME MINE"...
IN OTHER WORDS, THAT MEANS THAT HE WILL DEVOUR HER AT SOME POINT.
THAT GROUP ARE THE KIND OF GHOSTS THAT EAT PEOPLE.
YES. DEMONS ARE GOOD AT DECEIVING HUMANS.
HEY! DOES THAT MEAN THAT OHATSU BELIEVES THAT SHE IS A MONSTER?
AND ALSO THAT SHE'S IN LOVE WITH THAT RASETSU GUY?

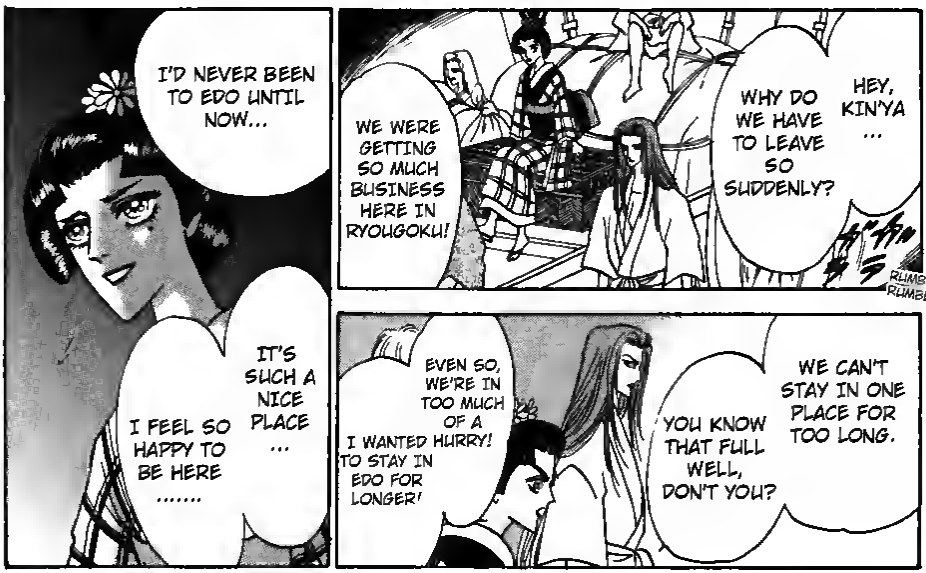
SO THEY KIDNAPPED OHATSU...
...AND ARE RAISING HER UNTIL THE TIME THEY DECIDE TO EAT HER?
MOST LIKELY ...
OYOU ...
IT'S TRUE ...
AFTER THAT, WE WITNESSED A SCENE THAT MADE OUR HAIR STAND ON END.
THEY WERE HUNGRILY DEVOURING ....
...WHAT SEEMED TO BE THE CORPSE OF A YOUNG GIRL THAT THEY HAD DUG UP FROM A GRAVE
IT WAS THE CORPSE OF A VIRGIN, SO THEY SAID IT WAS "DELICIOUS" .....
COULD IT BE THAT... OHATSU WAS EATING IT TOO?
NO...
ONLY SHE SAID THAT SHE DOESN'T LIKE MEAT, SO SHE ATE RICE BALLS.
THAT'S GOOD .....
PHEW!
YES, WE WERE RELIEVED TOO.

AND THEN, WITHIN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THE MONSTERS HAD EATEN UP THE CORPSE.
AFTER THAT, THIS IS WHAT THEY WERE WHISPERING ...
LOOKS LIKE OHATSU IS ASLEEP ...
YES ...
THIS IS BAD, KIN'YA.
I MEAN THAT COUPLE THAT WERE HERE IN THE DAY.
YEAH. THEY WERE WITHOUT A DOUBT HER REAL PARENTS.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THAT COUPLE WILL DEFINITELY COME BACK TO TAKE AWAY OHATSU.
WE CAN'T LET THEM COME IN AND STEAL HER AWAY AFTER WE'VE RAISED HER UNTIL NOW.
HEH HEH!
YOU'RE RIGHT! ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!
NO, NO, MOMONJII! KIN'YA IS THE ONE WHO WILL EAT OHATSU!
OGIN, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT THAT!
THE WOMAN WHO REPELLED YOUR EVIL ENERGY?
SHE IS CERTAINLY NO ORDINARY HUMAN.
I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT WOMAN WHO WAS THERE THAN THAT COUPLE.
THAT WOMAN SAW US FOR WHAT WE REALLY ARE RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING.

*BUTSUMETSU = CONSIDERED TO BE AN EXTREMELY UNLUCKY DAY IN BUDDHISM AS IT MARKS THE DAY OF BUDDHA'S DEATH.

IT MIGHT BE BEST IF WE DON'T STAY HERE MUCH LONGER.
I AGREE ...
IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO MOVE AGAIN. TO KEEP OUR WHERE-ABOUTS HIDDEN FROM THE HUMANS.
HOW ABOUT THE DAY AFTER TOMO-RROW?
THAT DAY IS BUTSU-METSU* ...
WE CAN ONLY TRAVEL ON THE NIGHT OF BUTSU-METSU.
I SEE ...
THE NIGHT OF THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW WILL BE THE BEST TIME.
LET'S PREPARE TO LEAVE QUICKLY .....
BEFORE OHATSU IS TAKEN AWAY.
OYOU ...
AT THIS RATE, OHATSU WILL BE TAKEN AWAY AGAIN BY THAT GROUP TOMORROW NIGHT!
AND THEN SHE WILL BECOME THE PREY OF THOSE MONSTERS!
IT WAS EXACTLY LIKE YOU SAY...
PLEASE, OYOU ...
...SAVE OUR DAUGHTER OHATSU .....
IF WE WERE TO MAKE A CASE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THEY ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE US!
THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN SAVE OUR DAUGHTER IS YOU.

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHOOOSH ...!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


I'D NEVER BEEN TO EDO UNTIL NOW...
IT'S SUCH A NICE PLACE ...
I FEEL SO HAPPY TO BE HERE .....
WE WERE GETTING SO MUCH BUSINESS HERE IN RYOUGOKU!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO LEAVE SO SUDDENLY?
HEY, KIN'YA ...
RUMBLE RUMBLE
EVEN SO, WE'RE IN TOO MUCH OF A I WANTED HURRY! TO STAY IN EDO FOR LONGER!
YOU KNOW THAT FULL WELL, DON'T YOU?
WE CAN'T STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR TOO LONG.

OHATSU.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE BORN IN EDO.
IT'S... YOU...
THE NIGHT OF BUTSU-METSU, THE HOUR OF THE OX*.
WE THOUGHT YOU'D PROBABLY PASS THROUGH HERE, SO WE WAITED TO AMBUSH YOU.
HNN .....
KEEP QUIET AND HAND OVER THE GIRL.
IF YOU DO THAT, WE'LL LET YOU GO.
IF YOU TRY TO LEAVE RYOUGOKU WHILE AVOIDING PLACES THAT ARE TROUBLESOME FOR YOU LIKE THE SACRED GROUND OF SHRINES AND TEMPLES...
THEN YOU'D HAVE TO PASS THROUGH THE CROSSING AT MONKEY STREET.

*2 AM

RAAAGH!!
HOW COULD I JUST HAND HER OVER!?
KIN'YA...?
HOW COULD I...?
臨RIN・兵PYO・闘TOU・者SHA
皆KAI・陣JIN・烈RETSU・在ZAI・前ZEN
POW!!
GWAAAAH!!

EVERY-BODY !?
KIN'YA !?
*SHUGENDOU = JAPANESE MOUNTAIN SHAMANISM
THAT WAS NINE SYMBOLIC CUTS OF THE SHUGENDOU* TECHNIQUE
GWAAAH!!!
EEEK!
IT'S A MAGIC FORMATION THAT CAN FORCE ANY GHOST INTO COMPLETE SURRENDER
EEEK ....
IT HURTS ...
EVERY-ONE! HANG IN THERE!
KIN'YA ...
UGH ...
DAMN YOU ...
IT HURTS !!

ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY ARE BEING WOUNDED AND ARE SUFFERING ...
BECAUSE OF MY MAGIC ...
.....
...BUT ONLY YOU ARE COMPLETELY FINE.
OHATSU ...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE?
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT A MONSTER.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
YES ...
WHEN YOU WERE THREE YEARS OLD, THEY KIDNAPPED YOU!
OHATSU ...
YOU ARE OUR DAUGHTER ...

IT'S A LIE ...
KIN'YA ...
RIGHT? WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS NONSENSE, ISN'T IT?
TELL ME THEY'RE LYING KIN'YA .....
HMPH. TOO BAD ...
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS ALMOST TIME TO EAT YOU ...
KIN'YA ...
WE SET YOU ASIDE TO RAISE AS OUR PREY FOR THIRTEEN YEARS...
...BUT AN UNFORE-SEEN OBSTACLE HAS APPEARED ...
NEVER MIND ...
IN THAT CASE ...
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO EAT YOU HERE AND NOW ...
IF THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU FROM ME...
I'D RATHER ...
GRAAAAH!!

OHA-TSU ...!
HAH !!
KIN'YA ...
GWAAAAH!!
UGH ...
RUSTLE
HER SPIRIT POWER ... IT'S TOO STRONG ...
THAT ... WOMAN ...
K... KIN'YA ... IT'S NO USE ...
RUSTLE
WE... HAVE TO RETREAT ...FOR NOW...
IT'S REGRETTABLE BUT WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE...
RUSTLE RUSTLE

DON'T LEAVE ME!!
OHATSU !!
KIN'YA !!
KIN'YA !!
WAIT!
WAIT! EVERY-ONE!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
WE WILL REMEM-BER THIS...
WE WILL REMEMBER ...
.....
O... OHATSU ...
OHATSU ...
YOU ARE OUR DAUGHTER.
YOU'VE FINALLY RETURNED TO US...
YOU ARE HUMAN .....
.....

I PREPARED A KIMONO EVERY YEAR FOR YOU, SO THAT YOU COULD COME BACK ANY TIME!
IT SUITS YOU EVEN BETTER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD, OHATSU!
OH MY! IT'S BEAUT-IFUL!
SO PLEASE SMILE FOR ME ...
OHATSU ..
AND CALL ME "MOTHER" ... PLEASE ?
.....
OYOU THE URAMESHIYA ...
THERE TRULY IS NO WAY WE CAN POSSIBLY THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE
SIGN: RICE WHOLE-SALERS

THANKS TO YOU, OHATSU HAS AT LONG LAST RETURNED TO THIS HOUSE.
WHEN SHE DISAPP-EARED ...
WE HAD NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK. NOW THIS HOUSEHOLD CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE GOOD THINGS IN THE FUTURE!
OUMIYA, I DID THIS WITHOUT ASKING BUT I HAVE PLACED CHARMS TO WARD OFF DEMONS IN EACH OF THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE HOUSE.
HUH ...?
IT SEEMS THAT THOSE MONSTERS ARE STILL LURKING SOMEWHERE HERE IN EDO.
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY WILL RETURN TO TAKE BACK OHATSU.
HOWEVER, AS LONG AS WE HAVE THESE CHARMS, THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO ENTER THIS PLACE.
OHATSU SHOULD NOT BE LET OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE ...
IF YOU CAN JUST MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN ...
W... WILL THAT REALLY BE ALRIGHT?
MOST LIKELY ...
BECAUSE DESPITE THEIR APPEARANCE, THEY ARE WEAK, LOW-CLASS GHOSTS.
B... BUT ...
JUST THAT ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO PUT OUR MINDS AT EASE!
PLEASE, OYOU!
STAY HERE UNTIL WE KNOW IT IS SAFE!
PLEASE ...
I BEG OF YOU!

SO YOU'RE GOING TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO APPEASE HIM.
TOUKA?
HEH HEH! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME OUT!
I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE WHOLE THING FROM THE SHADOWS!
SWOOSH!
MY GOODNESS. IF THIS IS HOW THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE FINISHED THEM OFF PROPERLY BACK THEN.
OYOU, WHY DID YOU HOLD BACK AGAINST THEM?
WITH YOUR SPIRIT POWER...
YOU COULD HAVE EASILY SLAIN GHOSTS LIKE THOSE BACK THEN.
WELL, I...
...WAS BOTHERED BY THEIR EYES...
THEIR EYES ...?
THEIR EYES WHEN THEY WERE LOOKING AT OHATSU ...
ESPECIALLY THE EYES OF THE ONE CALLED KIN'YA.
THEY WEREN'T THE EYES OF MONSTERS LOOKING AT THEIR PREY.

TOUKA ...
FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE LURKING NOW IN EDO.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT.
OYOU ...?
I WANT TO CONFIRM ONE MORE TIME...
...EXACTLY WHAT THOSE GHOSTS FEEL FOR OHATSU.
OHATSU ...
YOU'VE LEFT THIS MUCH FOOD, AGAIN ...
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE ALREADY SETTLED A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL...
...YOU RE GOING TO MAKE YOURSELF SICK BEFORE THE WEDDING!
.....
YOU MUST STOP BEING SO GLUM
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
WEDDING ...?
OH MY, YOUR FATHER HASN'T TOLD YOU?
ONCE YOU RETURNED TO THIS HOUSE...
YOUR FATHER DECIDED THAT YOU SHOULD SOON GET MARRIED TO SOMEONE.

... I... DON'T WANT TO!!
DON'T JUST DECIDE THESE THINGS FOR ME !!
WAIT A MOMENT!
WAIT ...
IT'S SO SUDDEN A... ...
A WEDDING ...?
YOU WILL BE MARRYING KANBEI, THE LARGE STORE OWNER, NARITAYA'S SECOND SON.
THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A GOOD MARRIAGE PARTNER FOR A LONG TIME.
WHEN THE IDEA OF MARRYING YOU WAS SUGGESTED, THEY SEEMED QUITE KEEN.
THE REST OF THE CONVERSATION CONTINUED WITHOUT A HITCH.
THEY SAY "STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT".
THE WEDDING HAS BEEN SET FOR TEN DAYS FROM NOW.
PARENTS DECIDE THEIR CHILDREN'S MARRIAGE PARTNERS.
THAT'S A GIVEN.
YOU LIVED WITH THE MONSTERS FOR SO LONG...
...THAT YOU'VE BECOME UNFAMILIAR WITH THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.
.....
KANBEI WILL BECOME THE ADOPTED SON-IN-LAW OF THIS FAMILY.
THAT'S A WONDERFUL THING FOR US, ISN'T IT?
THEN, NARITAYA, THE LARGE STORE OWNER WILL GIVE US HIS BACKING.
TO BE HONEST, TRADE HASN'T BEEN GOOD FOR US.
THE STORE WAS ON THE BRINK OF CLOSING.

BUT, THANKS TO YOU, THE FUTURE OF THIS STORE AND FOR YOUR FATHER AND I ONCE WE GROW OLD, LOOKS SECURE.
OHATSU, IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU COMING BACK TO US!
A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL FOR OHATSU?
YEAH, I HEARD IT BY CHANCE ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE PRIVY.
SHE FINALLY COMES BACK AFTER THIRTEEN YEARS AND THEY SUDDENLY START TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE PROPOSALS ...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THE OUMIYA COUPLE THINKING?
ALSO, SHE'S MARRYING KANBEI NARITAYA.
DO YOU KNOW OF HIM?
YEAH BECAUSE HE'S A FAMOUS "IDIOT SON".
THAT GUY HAS ENTERED STORES ALL OVER THE PLACE AS THEIR ADOPTED SON.
HE HAS SUCH BAD HABITS WITH WOMEN AND BOOZE THAT HE DOESN'T STAY FOR LONG.
THE OUMIYAS JUMPED AT THE CHANCE OFFERED TO THEM.
IT SEEMS THAT THINGS ARE ACTUALLY GOING PRETTY BADLY FOR THIS HOUSE-HOLD.
...NAMELY, LARGE MARRIAGE PAYMENTS. THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TRYING TO FIND A MARRIAGE PARTNER FOR HIM.
THAT IDIOTIC SECOND SON KANBEI IS TOO MUCH FOR THEM TO HANDLE, SO THE NARITAYAS USE THE STRONG POINT OF THEIR LARGE STORE...
EVEN SO, IT'S AN AWFUL SITUATION.
I FEEL SORRY FOR OHATSU.

SAVE ME...
EVERY-ONE... KIN'YA ...
I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED!
I HATE HUMANS!
SAVE ME! I'VE BEEN SHUT UP IN HERE AND THEY WON'T LET ME GO!
IF I'M GOING TO MARRY SOME MAN I DON'T EVEN KNOW ...
...I'D RATHER BE EATEN BY ALL OF YOU. THAT'S HOW I REALLY FEEL!
I WANT TO GO BACK!
I WANT TO RETURN TO YOUR SIDE.
SIGN: RICE WHOLESALERS

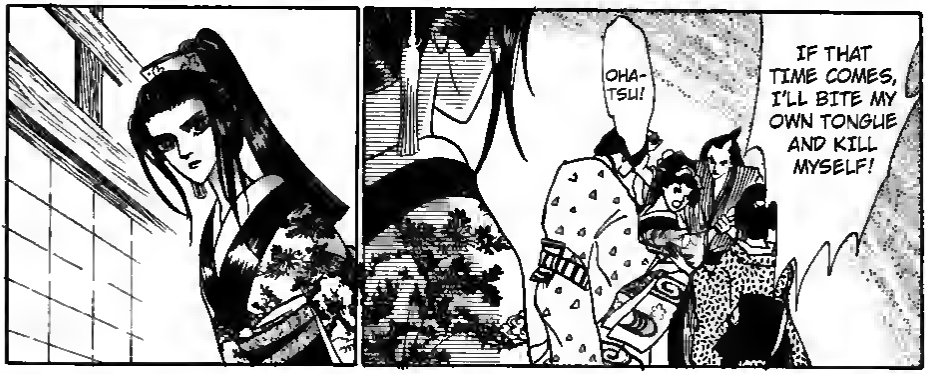
OGIN ...
OHATSU IS CRYING .....
YES ...
I FEEL IT TOO
OHATSU IS CALLING FOR US .....
IT'S NO GOOD, MOTHER!
THE CHARM IS IN OUR WAY!
WE CAN'T GET INSIDE .....
EEEK!!
OHA-TSU ...
OHA-TSU ...
OHA-TSU ...!
.....

OHATSU HAS ONLY JUST COME BACK TO THIS HOUSE.
OUMIYA ...
WHATEVER THE CIRCUM-STANCES MAY BE, IT'S TOO HASTY.
OH...
SO YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT IT, OYOU?
IT IS TRUE. THANKS TO YOUR HELP, OHATSU'S MARRIAGE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SETTLED.
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, OYOU?
RUMORS ARE GRADUALLY SPREADING AROUND HERE.
THAT THE OUMIYA'S DAUGHTER, WHO HAD BEEN SPIRITED AWAY, HAS UNEXPECTEDLY RETURNED.

ON TOP OF THAT, THE MONSTERS ARE STILL AFTER OHATSU, AREN'T THEY?
THAT'S WHY GETTING HER MARRIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SHOULD BE A WAY TO PROTECT HER...
BECAUSE THE MONSTERS LIKE THE FLESH OF VIRGINS
IF BY ANY CHANCE, THE RUMORS SPREAD EVEN FURTHER
THAT'S WHY WE ARE IN SUCH A HURRY.
...AND PEOPLE KNOW THAT OHATSU WAS RAISED BY MONSTERS ...
...THEN IN THE FUTURE, OHATSU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A SINGLE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.

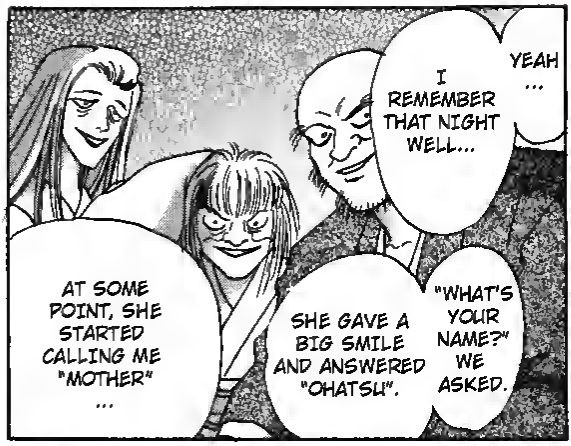
OHATSU HAS ESCAPED!
SOME-ONE
STOP HER!
STOMP STOMP STOMP
BAM!
.....
YOU ...
IT'S ...
...ALL YOUR FAULT ...
...THAT I HAVE TO MARRY ...
A MAN I DON'T KNOW .....
OHATSU !!
YOU'RE TRYING IT AGAIN?

I'LL KILL MY-SELF.
WHAT IF...
...THEY DON'T COME TO SAVE YOU...?
COME ON NOW, BACK TO YOUR ROOM!
BUT ...
BUT YOU'LL SEE!
KIN'YA AND THE OTHERS WILL COME TO SAVE ME!
AND WHEN THEY DO, NOT YOU, NOT ANYBODY, WILL BE ABLE TO STOP THEM!


OHA-TSU!
IF THAT TIME COMES, I'LL BITE MY OWN TONGUE AND KILL MYSELF!

WHERE ARE THEY?
TOUKA HAS FOUND OUT WHERE THEY'VE BEEN LURKING!
OYOU!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

AN ABANDONED TEMPLE OUTSIDE OF HONJO
THIS PLACE IS PRETTY EERIE, ISN'T IT?
I GUESS IT'S A SUITABLE PLACE FOR MONSTERS TO LURK
SHH!
KIN'YA ...
YOU'RE A FOOL ...
WHY DID YOU SAY A THING LIKE THAT TO OHATSU?
WHEN YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF EATING HER...
YEAH BUT I HAD TO DO IT.
OHATSU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE WORLD OF HUMANS EASILY, WOULD SHE ...?


YEAH ...
I REMEMBER THAT NIGHT WELL...
"WHAT'S YOUR NAME?" WE ASKED.
SHE GAVE A BIG SMILE AND ANSWERED "OHATSU".
AT SOME POINT, SHE STARTED CALLING ME "MOTHER" ...

AH YES ...
THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL THIRTEEN YEARS AGO .....
THAT CUTE LITTLE GIRL I SAW AT THE FESTIVAL ...
SHE WAS SO CUTE THAT I JUST KIND OF KIDNAPPED HER..

MOMONJII! YOU KNOW THAT YOU LOST THE URGE TO EAT HER A LONG TIME AGO!
HEH! HEH!

SHE WAS SO CUTE!
HEH HEH!
I THOUGHT THAT WE SHOULD RAISE HER BECAUSE SHE WOULD TASTE GREAT ONCE SHE'S GROWN UP!

FOR OHATSU, WHO HAS SUCH A BRIEF LIFE...
...I WONDERED IF IT WOULD REALLY BE ALRIGHT FOR HER TO SPEND IT WITH US, AVOIDING THE ATTENTION OF HUMANS.
WITHOUT REALIZING, I STARTED TO THINK THAT ...
SOMEWHEN..
SOMEWHEN, THE TIME WOULD COME WHERE IT WOULD BE BEST TO RETURN HER TO THE HUMAN WORLD....
HUMANS ONLY LIVE FOR A MERE FIFTY YEARS OR SO.
THEY'RE DIFFERENT TO US.

I THANK THAT WOMAN.
OYOU ... I THINK HER NAME WAS...
I WAS SO RELUCTANT TO LET OHATSU GO...
BUT THAT WOMAN SETTLED THE PROBLEM FOR ME ...
NO ...
THAT'S NOT IT!
KIN'YA ...
OHATSU ...
...SHE WAS CRYING!
SHE WAS CRYING AND ASKING FOR US TO SAVE HER!
SHE WANTS TO COME BACK TO US!
AND WE ...
...WANT TO BE WITH HER...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW.
WE CAN'T RAISE A FINGER .....
AS LONG AS THAT WOMAN IS AROUND ...
WE CAN'T GET NEAR THE GIRL .....
OYOU ...
.....

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
STOP THE WEDDING !?
OYOU, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
OHATSU IS AGAINST IT, ISN'T SHE?
ALSO, THE MARRIAGE PARTNER IS THE SECOND SON OF NARITAYA AND IT SEEMS LIKE HE DOESN'T HAVE A VERY GOOD REPUTATION.
I'M SORRY BUT TO ME, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE JUST GIVING AWAY YOUR DAUGHTER IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY.
WHY YOU...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW !?
IN THE THIRTEEN YEARS SINCE SHE WAS KIDNAPPED ...
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH WE'VE BEEN THROUGH?
WE WOULD FEEL SO ENVIOUS WHEN WE SAW OTHER FAMILIES' CHILDREN AND THEIR DEVOTION TO THEIR PARENTS.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT...
IF SHE WERE HERE WE WOULD FEEL SO MUCH MORE REASSURED.
YES ...
THAT'S WHY WE CONTINUED TO SEARCH FOR HER SO DESPERATELY

WE ARE BUSY WITH THE PREPARATIONS
TOMORROW IS THE ALL-IMPORTANT DAY OF THE WEDDING.
A... ANYWAY ...
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT HER MARRIAGE PARTNER.
BUT WE'RE NOT IN ANY POSITION TO BE ABLE TO TAKE SUCH LUXURIES.
THAT'S BECAUSE OHATSU WAS RAISED BY MONSTERS!
OUMIYA ...
I WOULD PREFER IT IF A STRANGER LIKE YOU WOULD REFRAIN FROM SAYING WHATEVER YOU PLEASE.
THE THIRTEEN YEARS...
...THAT YOU WERE SEPARATED FROM OHATSU WAS TOO LONG.
LONG ENOUGH TO FORGET THE LOVE BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO LONG .....
SLAM!
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OUMIYA GIRL WHO WAS SPIRITED AWAY?
SHE SUDDENLY CAME BACK.
REALLY? WHERE ON EARTH HAD SHE BEEN ALL THAT TIME?
AS WELL AS THAT, SHE'S GETTING MARRIED TODAY. THAT'S A BIT OF A SURPRISE, ISN'T IT?

I DON'T WANT TO...
I DON'T WANT TO...
WELL THEN, THE GROOM IS WAITING.
SAVE ME, KIN'YA!
PLEASE, SAVE ME!
EVERYONE!
OH, YOU LOOK SO PRETTY!
OHA-TSU ...
YOU MAKE A WONDER-FUL BRIDE.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON THIS SPECIAL DAY.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
IS THIS ALRIGHT, OYOU?
TO LET THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS?
OYOU ?

RIP!!
OYOU !!
TOUKA !!
YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU?
FWOOSH!
YES!
QUICKLY, TELL THIS TO THE GROUP AT THE ABANDONED TEMPLE IN HONJO!
TELL THEM TO PUT ON THEIR LAST SHOW IN EDO!
THIS IS THE PLACE
THE PLACE OF THE OUMIYA'S WEDDING!
TELL THEM TO COME AND TAKE BACK...
...THEIR BELOVED FAMILY MEMBER AND BRIDE!
I SHALL !!
FWOOSH!

OYOU ...
SAJI ...
WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD...
MY OWN PARENTS SOLD ME TO A PROSTITUTE TRADER.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE POOR.
IT WAS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY TREATED ME WITH SUSPICION AND FEAR.
THEY ABANDONED ME, BY SENDING ME TO A PLACE...
...FROM WHICH I WOULD NEVER RETURN.
NO!
MOTHER! FATHER!
DON'T SEND ME AWAY!
THERE'S A TENKA!
THERE'S A TENKA ON THE ROOF!
THAT NIGHT, THE HOUSE WAS ENGULFED IN A MYSTERIOUS FIRE.
BOTH OF MY PARENTS WERE BURNED TO A CRISP.
THE MORE I TRIED TO WARN THEM ABOUT THE GHOST THAT HAD SUMMONED THE FIRE KNOWN AS A "TENKA"...
...THE MORE THEY FEARED ME.
AT THAT TIME, I WAS DESPERATELY SUPPRESSING THE TENKA'S POWER.

OYOU ...
WITH A CHILD'S REAL PARENTS ...
NO... IT'S EVEN MORE SO WITH REAL PARENTS ...
...IF THERE IS NO LOVE TO A CHILD, THAT IS MORE TERRIFYING THAN ANY MONSTER
HAHAHA... IT'S PRETTY STUPID, EVEN THOUGH I SAY SO MYSELF.
A CHILD'S HEART WOULD BE RIPPED TO PIECES.
I UNDERSTOOD THAT MORE THAN ANYONE .....
REAL PARENTS WOULD DO THIS ...
THAT'S HOW THEY SHOULD BE...
THOSE KINDS OF DREAMS OR EXPECTATIONS ...
I STILL HADN'T THROWN THEM AWAY.
TO OHATSU ...
...THAT HOUSE WAS LIKE A HAUNTED MANSION.

高砂や
この浦舟に
帆を上げて
RAISING THE MAST OF THE SHIP IN THE INLET OF TAKASAGO
月もろともに
出でしおの
THE TIDE RISES WITH THE MOON...
I WILL DEFINITELY ... DEFINITELY ... KILL MYSELF.
BEFORE THIS WEDDING IS OVER.
I'LL KILL MYSELF.
SPLASH!
SPLISH!

OH ...
THAT'S SOME TASTY SAKE ...
OGIN !!
IT'S ...
IT'S A MONSTER !!
AAAGH! A MONSTER !!
HEE HEE!

NECTAR, NECTAR!
WOOAH !!
EEEEK!!
EEEEK!!
H... H...
HELP US!
GRANNY MADOU!
AAAAAAGH!!!

YOU ARE MINE.
KIN'YA !!
KIN'YA ...!

EEK ...
O...
OYOU!
WHERE IS OYOU ...?
OYOU !!
A LOVE THICKER THAN BLOOD ...
OYOU ...
THE OUMIYA'S ARE IN TOTAL DISARRAY!
HMM ...
LOOK, SAJI.

END OF VOLUME V: HAUNTED MANSION

URAMESHIYA VOLUME VI:
SPRING STORM
うらめしや Vol. VI
春の嵐

WHOOOSH...!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
CAN'T SLEEP, HUH, OYOU?
IT'S BECAUSE THE WIND IS REALLY HOWLING TONIGHT...

.....
I'M GETTING KIND OF EXCITED!
THIS OFTEN HAPPENS IN EARLY SPRING.
POKE POKE
HEY ...
IF YOU CAN'T GET TO SLEEP, MAYBE IT WILL BE ALRIGHT FOR ME GO OVER THERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE?
HMPH! YOU'RE ALWAYS SO HAPPY-GO-LUCKY!
THE CHERRY BLOSSOM WILL START BLOOMING SOON WON'T IT?
SOON IT WILL START TO BECOME MORE LIKE SPRING.
.....
IT'S TURNING ME ON, YOU KNOW ...?
CAN YOU FEEL IT TOO?
SAY... MY BODY IS KIND OF TINGLING ...
IT'S TIME FOR THE BUDS TO APPEAR ON THE TREES...
EEK!
EEK EEK!
THIS IS WHY YOU WERE GETTING TURNED ON...
BECAUSE THERE WAS AN IMP ON YOUR BODY
WHY DID YOU DO THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
EEK!
EEK!
SLAP!
OW!

I'M NOT LYING.
HMPH !!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ANYWAY!
SLUMP
SEE ?
EEK!
EEK!
IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD, JUST SAY SO!
GEEZ !!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IMPS, BUT...
IF YOU'RE GONNA LIE, AT LEAST MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE PLAUSIBLE !!
HMPH!
SHEESH ...
THE TRUTH IS, I'M ENVIOUS OF THE FACT THAT HE CAN'T SEE THEM.

WHOOOSH!
ヒュオオ
MANY KINDS OF GHOSTS ...
....SOME THAT EVEN I CANNOT FATHOM.
THE SPRING WINDS BRING MANY KINDS OF CATASTROPHE FROM ALL AROUND.
EXCITED ABOUT SPRING?
UNBELIEVABLE ...

THIS OMINOUS GHOSTLY PRESENCE?
WHAT IS IT?

I KNOW ...
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS KIND OF GHOSTLY ENERGY BEFORE BUT...
IT RODE ON THE WIND AND HAS JUST ARRIVED IN EDO...
RATTLE
WHOOOSH!
WHAT IS IT OYOU?
AREN'T YOU COLD?
HA HA
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!

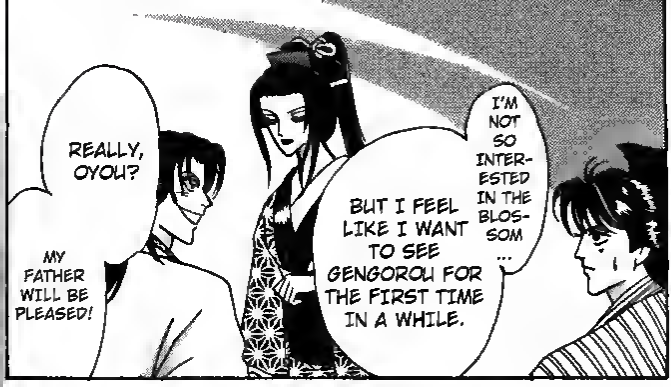
WOW!!
HEY, GUESS WHAT?
LAST NIGHT, ALL OVER EDO, THE CHERRY BLOSSOM IS IN FULL BLOOM!
.....
EVERYONE IS REALLY GOING CRAZY FOR IT!
THIS IS GREAT!
OYOU!
OYOU ...!
IT'S OBVIOUS! GET READY FOR HANAMI*!
IF WE SPEND TOO LONG HANGING AROUND HERE, THE BLOSSOM WILL ALL SCATTER!
READY FOR WHAT?
READY ?
WE CAN'T STAY IN HERE!
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY AND GET READY!

*HANAMI = VIEWING THE CHERRY BLOSSOM, OFTEN WHILE ENJOYING FOOD AND DRINK OUTSIDE, UNDER THE TREES. THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE FOR A WEEK OR SO IN MOST AREAS, SINCE THE CHERRY BLOSSOM DOESN'T LAST LONG

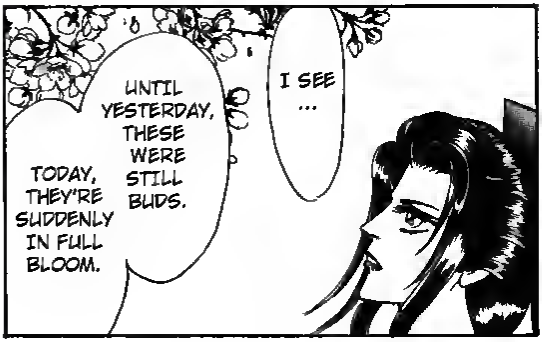
HUH ...?
SHOULD WE GO TO UENO OR GOTENYAMA?
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE
SUMIDA-ZUTSUMI ISN'T BAD EITHER...
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HANAMI. SORRY.
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE BIG CROWDS.
AND BESIDES, I'VE HAD AN UNBEARABLE HEADACHE SINCE LAST NIGHT.
IF YOU WANT TO GO, WHY DON'T YOU GO BY YOURSELF?
OYOU ...
FWOOSH!
OH, DID YOU SAY HANAMI? SOUNDS GOOD!
TOUKA!
HOW ABOUT INARI MOUNTAIN, WHERE MY HOMETOWN IS?
IF YOU SAY YOU HATE CROWDS...
OYOU ...
THAT IF YOU DON'T DO HANAMI IN THIS SEASON, YOU'RE NOT A REAL "PERSON OF EDO"?
YOU THINK SO TOO, DON'T YOU?
SOMETIMES YOU CHOOSE A GOOD TIME TO SHOW UP!

INARI MOUNTAIN IS FAMOUS FOR ITS AUTUMN LEAVES BUT ITS CHERRY BLOSSOM IS JUST AS AMAZING.
ALSO, BECAUSE IT'S THE SPIRIT MOUNTAIN WHERE MY FATHER, GENGOROU, IS ENSHRINED, PEOPLE HARDLY EVER GO NEAR IT.
HEH, THAT'S PRETTY HANDY.
YOU MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL SOMETIMES, DON'T YOU?
WHO SAID I WAS TAKING YOU?
I ONLY WANT TO TAKE OYOU.
BUT INARI MOUNTAIN IS A LITTLE TOO FAR AWAY.
IT WILL TAKE TWO FULL DAYS BEFORE WE ARRIVE.
HMM ...
WITH MY SPIRIT POWER, I CAN EASILY TRANSPORT OYOU TO INARI MOUNTAIN IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
WHY YOU ...!
BUT THAT'S UNLUCKY ...
...OYOU CAN'T GO TO INARI MOUNTAIN!
NO... I THINK I'LL GO.
SEEMS LIKE SHE'S HAD A HEADACHE SINCE LAST NIGHT!
HUH ...?

NO, NOT THAT...
OYOU ...


REALLY, OYOU?
MY FATHER WILL BE PLEASED!
BUT I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO SEE GENGOROU FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.
I'M NOT SO INTERESTED IN THE BLOSSOM ...

LET'S BUY SOME INARIZUSHI AS PRESENTS FOR GENGOROU.
MY FATHER WILL BE PLEASED ABOUT THAT TOO!
SINCE ITS BEEN DECIDED, THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!
WELL THEN ...
LET'S GO TO INARI MOUNTAIN!


I SEE ...
UNTIL YESTERDAY, THESE WERE STILL BUDS.
TODAY, THEY'RE SUDDENLY IN FULL BLOOM.

I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FOR MANY YEARS.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS YEAR'S BLOSSOM IS PARTICULARLY SPECTACULAR.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OYOU DECIDED TO COME WITH ME.
HEE HEE!
TOUKA, CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?
HUH ...?
THIS YEAR'S CHERRY BLOSSOM SEEMS POISONOUS TO ME SOMEHOW.
THERE SEEMS TO BE A STRANGE GHOSTLY ENERGY LOOMING ...
GENGOROU MIGHT KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND THIS GHOSTLY ENERGY.
ANYWAY, LET'S GO TO INARI MOUNTAIN.
I'M... I'M NOT FOLLOWING YOU!
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO FOLLOW US AROUND?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
I'M ON MY WAY TO UENO MOUNTAIN WHICH IS IN THIS DIRECTION.
SIGN INARIZUSHI
SURE!
THANKS VERY MUCH!
GIVE ME ALL OF YOUR INARI-ZUSHI!

I'M NOT GOING TO HANAMI WITH FOXES!
I'M GONNA DRINK SAKE, SING, DANCE AND HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH THOSE WOMEN!
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF WOMEN WHO WOULD HAPPILY GO WITH ME IF I INVITED THEM!
HEH HEH! SOUNDS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
IS THAT ALRIGHT WITH YOU, OYOU!?
GEEZ, SHUT UP!
IF YOU WANNA STOP ME, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
NO ONE'S GOING TO STOP YOU.
I CAN STILL GO WITH YOU, YOU KNOW!
WHY DON'T YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE?

SORRY ABOUT THAT!
BAM!
I GUESS I WASN'T LOOKING WHERE I WAS GOING .....
SNIFF!
.....
AW, GEEZ!
IF YOU REGRET THIS LATER, DON'T BLAME ME!
HEH HEH!

YAAAAAA!!
HEE HEE HEE!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF WATCHING PLAYS AND LOOKING AT PICTURE BOOKS!
I WANT TO REALLY FALL IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE!
AND FOR SOME-ONE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
I SAID...
...LET GO OF ME!
PLEASE!
WON'T YOU BE MY MAN!?
PLEASE!!
AH... WHAT'RE DOING?
LET GO OF ME!
YOU'RE THE MAN FOR ME!
YOU'RE REAL NICE GUY...
LIKE OHATSU AND TOKUBEI* ...
LIKE OSOME AND HISA-MATSU* ...
WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG SO WELL!
NO! NO!

*FAMOUS TRAGIC LOVERS

ISN'T THAT OTOKI FROM ISEYA?
WHAT ON EARTH IS SHE DOING?
SHE'S AN UGLY GIRL BUT SHE'S GOOD-NATURED AND OBEDIENT.
NO! I WON'T LEAVE HIM!
HE IS MY MAN!
EVERYONE HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU MUST STOP THAT!
MY LADY!
SO YOU WERE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
OYOU, HELP ME!
DO SOME-THING!
NO ...!
MY LADY!
COME NOW!
LET'S GO BACK TO THE STORE!

NOW THEN ...
PLEASE COME WITH HIM ...
WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR ASSIS-TANCE ...
PLEASE, COULD YOU COME TO OUR STORE LIKE THAT, BRINGING OUR LADY WITH YOU?
OUR STORE IS NOT FAR FROM HERE ...
I DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE BUT I AM VERY SORRY...
WE LACK THE STRENGTH TO FORCE OUR LADY TO RELEASE YOU!

I AM YOHEI, HEAD OF THE ISEYA FAMILY.
I OFFER MY SINCERE APOLOGIES ...
...FOR THE TROUBLE THAT MY DAUGHTER HAS CAUSED.
NO, NO ...
IT IS I THAT SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR GIVING ME SUCH A WONDERFUL KIMONO.
THIS HAS ...
...CAUSED YOU SUCH GREAT INCONVENIENCE ...
IN THE END, IT TOOK FIVE MANSERVANTS ...
...BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, HIS KIMONO WAS RIPPED...
WE SOON PREPARED A REPLACEMENT KIMONO FOR HIM, BUT...
DARLING!
WE FINALLY SEPARATED HIM FROM OTOKI!
OH!
BY THE WAY, ISEYA ...
WHEN DID YOUR DAUGHTER START ACTING LIKE THIS?
SINCE THIS MORNING
THIS MORNING?
YES. SHE WAS COMPLETELY FINE LAST NIGHT.

WE THINK THAT PERHAPS OTOKI IS POSSESSED BY SOME SPIRIT.
A SPIRIT?
.....
EVEN WHEN WE HAD A DOCTOR EXAMINE HER, WE COULDN'T CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM ...
WE WERE SIMPLY ASTOUNDED AND SHOCKED BY OUR DAUGHTER'S SUDDEN CHANGE OF CHARACTER...
HUH ?
WELL... WHEN WE HEAR THAT, WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT LIKE THIS!
SPIRITS AND THE LIKE? THAT'S NONSENSE !!
BUT DARLING ...
THAT'S NOT THE SORT OF THING THAT YOU CAN CARELESSLY SAY TO PEOPLE!
YES ...
SINCE YOU'RE FROM THE SAME TOWN, YOU MUST HAVE HEARD AT LEAST ONE RUMOR ABOUT HER.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS IS OYOU THE URAMESHIYA, WHO DEALS WITH MONSTERS, GHOSTS, MYSTERIES, ANYTHING AT ALL!
OYOU ...?
IT'S ALRIGHT, ISN'T IT, OYOU?
THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN.
SAJI ... CUT IT OUT.

I WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO NOTICE THE CHANGE IN OUR DAUGHTER.
AT ABOUT DAWN THIS MORNING ...
I SAW MY DAUGHTER STANDING ALONE IN THE GARDEN IN HER NIGHT CLOTHES.
OYOU THE URAMESHIYA ...?
Y... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE HEAVENS!
PLEASE ...
PLEASE LISTEN ...
UNDER THE ONE AND ONLY OLD CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE IN OUR GARDEN ...
UNDER THE SPECTACULAR BLOSSOM THAT HAD GONE INTO FULL BLOOM IN JUST ONE NIGHT ...
...STOOD MY DAUGHTER, STARING VACANTLY AS IF HER SOUL HAD LEFT HER BODY...
I RUSHED OVER TO HER AND THIS IS WHAT SHE MURMURED TO ME...
"I SAW... A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN..."
HE WORE A KIMONO WITH A CHERRY BLOSSOM PATTERN AND LONG HANGING SLEEVES
THAT WAS THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN .....

THEN SHE FELL DOWN, UNCONSCIOUS...
THE NEXT TIME THAT SHE OPENED HER EYES...
SHE HAD LOST HER MIND AS YOU SAW EARLIER.
THE THING THAT OUR DAUGHTER SAW MUST HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF SPIRIT.
PLEASE, OYOU THE URAMESHIYA ...
TELL US THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THAT SPIRIT!
AND WHAT MUST BE DONE TO DEFEAT IT!
I BEG OF YOU!
COULD YOU STOP THAT?
SPIRITS ARE ONLY FOUND IN PLAYS AND PICTURE BOOKS!
WILL YOU BE QUIET!?
IT'S NOT JUST OTOKI BUT YOU TOO! DO YOU INTEND TO LET YOURSELF BE INFLUENCED BY THAT SORT OF THING!?
PLEASE, OYOU, TELL US!
YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS, DON'T YOU?
NO...
I DO NOT KNOW.
UNFORTU-NATELY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS...

I AM SORRY THAT I COULD NOT BE OF ANY HELP.
I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE.
OYOU ...?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING !?
OYOU !!
HOLD ON!
OYOU !!
DISCUSSING SUCH THINGS WITH A DUBIOUS CHARACTER LIKE OYOU THE URAMESHIYA...
OTOKI ALREADY HAS ENOUGH PROBLEMS GETTING MARRIAGE OFFERS WITH LOOKS LIKE HERS...
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF BAD RUMORS START CIRCULATING?
.....
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED WITH THAT SUSPICIOUS WOMAN.
SHE'LL SOON RETURN TO NORMAL.
GIRLS HER AGE OFTEN HAVE EMOTIONAL ISSUES...

WAIT!
OYOU !!
OYOU !!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SUN HAS GONE DOWN ...
I'M SORRY TOUKA ...
THAT WE COULDN'T GO TO INARI MOUNTAIN ...
IT'S ALRIGHT. LET'S GO ANOTHER DAY.
WHY DID YOU LIE LIKE THAT?
LIE?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!
ABOUT THE SPIRIT THAT HAS POSSESSED THE ISEYA GIRL.
UNFORTU-NATELY, I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
I HAVE A A VAGUE FEELING THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY GHOST BLEW INTO EDO ON LAST NIGHT'S WIND.
BUT WHAT THAT IS, EVEN I DO NOT KNOW.
I'VE NEVER KNOWN ...
...NEVER FELT THIS KIND OF GHOSTLY ENERGY UNTIL NOW.
A GHOST THAT EVEN OYOU DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT ...?

RUSTLE...
WHAT IS IT, OYOU?
SHH!

CHERRY BLOSSOM PATTERN AND LONG HANGING SLEEVES ...
A BEATIFUL YOUNG MAN...
WHAT IS THIS ...
TREMENDOUS GHOSTLY ENERGY ...?
WHOOOSH!!

WHOOOOOOSH!!
HE'S GONE ...
HE HAS DISAPPEARED, OYOU...
YES ...
SAJI ...?
.....
WHAT'S WRONG, SAJI?

STAGGER!
BAM
SAJI!

OH MY. WHAT TREMENDOUS GHOSTLY ENERGY!
WHO ON EARTH WAS THAT?
THIS IS BAD.
SAJI HAS BEEN TOTALLY OVERWHELMED BY THAT GHOSTLY ENERGY.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, TOUKA?
I AM AFRAID NOT...
SAJI HAS THE SAME UNUSUAL PRESENCE DRIFTING AROUND HIS BODY AS THAT GIRL.
THE NEXT TIME SAJI OPENS HIS EYES, HE WILL PROBABLY BE JUST LIKE HER...
PAH!

SAJI ...?
SHWP!
HNNN!
OYOU ...
YOU ...
I'VE KNOWN ALL ABOUT IT...
...FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ...
...YOU'VE ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN ON ME...
YOU MOCK ME AND TREAT ME LIKE A FOOL SAYING THAT I'M USELESS. YOU GLEEFULLY TOY WITH MY EMOTIONS...
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A DECENT WOMAN YOURSELF!

NOT A SINGLE DAY HAS PASSED WHERE MY MIND HAS BEEN AT EASE!
YES... SINCE I MET YOU ...
OYOU. I'VE BEEN REGRETTING IT THIS WHOLE TIME ...
I WISH I'D NEVER MET YOU!
YOU ALWAYS USE THE FACT THAT I CAN'T SEE GHOSTS OR EVIL SPIRITS...
...AS AN EXCUSE TO MEET THAT FOX BASTARD IN SECRET AND LEAVE ME OUT OF EVERYTHING!
WHACK!
SHUT UP!!
BACK OFF, YOU MONSTER FOX!
SAJI !!
STOP !!
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
I... I...
WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THIS !!

PAH!
AAGH!
BAM!
DAMN IT...
YOU USED SOME STRANGE MAGIC ON ME!
YOU DAMN MONSTERS!!
I'M GOING TO TIE YOU UP!
.....
GRAAH!!
GRAAAAH!!
LET ME GO!! LET ME GO!!
GRAAH!!

MMF ...
UNTIE ME!
UNTIE ME NOW!
YOU BITCH !!
OYOU !!
DAMN YOU!
GMFF !!
MMF!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MMF MMF!
HE'S DISTURBING THE NEIGHBORS, SO LET'S COVER HIS MOUTH, WHILE WE'RE AT IT!
MOVE ALONG NOW!
NOW NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE!

SAJI ...
MMF ...
MMMF ...
CHIRP CHIRP
YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT ALL NIGHT, HAVE YOU?
YOU MUST BE THIRSTY.
HERE ...
IT'S WATER. DRINK IT.
.....
PTOO!

THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU ...
FOR YOU TO ACT SO KINDLY TOWARDS ME...
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU CARE ABOUT ME ANYWAY!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR ME!
HEH HEH HEH !!
THAT'S A GOOD LOOK!
I SAW RIGHT THROUGH YOU FROM THE START!
YOU ONLY KEPT ME AROUND AS A DISTRACTION FROM THE LONELINESS YOU FELT FROM BEING BY YOURSELF!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER!
IT'S NO GOOD ...
BUT ...
I FOUND IT ALL SO CREEPY AND HATED IT, BUT I THOUGHT I WOULD TRY TO PUT UP WITH IT.
THE MONSTERS AND GHOSTS ...
EVEN SO, I THOUGHT THAT I STILL WANTED TO BE BY YOUR SIDE...
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE ALRIGHT ...

YOU ARE ALWAYS MORE INTERESTED IN SLAYING MONSTERS THAN BEING WITH ME...
EVEN IF I FLIRT WITH OTHER WOMEN, YOU DON'T SHOW EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF JEALOUSY!
YOU'VE GOT NO CHARM ...
SNIFF
YOU'VE GOT NO DECENCY ...
HOW COULD I FALL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN LIKE YOU...?
HAH!
SLAYING MONSTERS? WHAT A JOKE!
OYOU ...
YOU ARE A MONSTER !!
A MONSTER THAT DRIVES ME INSANE !!
EVEN WHEN I'M WITH YOU, I'M JUST HEART-BROKEN SCARED AND FEEL SO MUCH PAIN ...
SNIFF SNIFF
I HATE IT...
SAJI ...
I HATE IT...
PAH!

YOU'RE BACK AGAIN, YOU FOX BASTARD !?
FWOOSH!
OYOU !!
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED !!
WHY DID YOU TAKE OFF HIS GAG?
YOU SLY MONSTER SON OF A BITCH!
TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE WATER.
MMF !!
YOU RE A NOISY ONE, AREN'T YOU? LET'S SHUT YOU UP AGAIN!
YOU MEAN OTOKI ?
YES.
HOWEVER, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY BAD THING THAT'S HAPPENED.
ALL OVER EDO, PEOPLE ARE GOING CRAZY, JUST LIKE OTOKI AND SAJI, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
LAST NIGHT, THAT GIRL THREW HERSELF INTO A WELL AND DIED. THERE'S BEEN AN UPROAR!
I WENT TO CHECK UP ON THE ISEYAS LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO, AND SOMETHING AWFUL HAS HAPPENED ...
ANYWAY, OYOU ...
MMF !!
WHAT IS IT ?

ONE OF THE SHOGUN'S RETAINERS SUDDENLY ...
KILLED HIS SERVANTS AND COURT LADIES FOR BEING IMPOLITE
ONE CHILD MINDER IN THE SERVICE OF A STORE SUDDENLY THREW A CHILD INTO THE RIVER
THERE ARE COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF SUCH CASES
THAT SPIRIT IS SPREADING CATASTROPHE ALL OVER EDO
IT WOULD SEEM SO...
I'M SORRY TOUKA ...
...BUT COULD YOU TAKE ME TO SEE GENGOROU?
GENGOROU MAY VERY WELL KNOW ABOUT THIS SPIRIT..
TO INARI MOUN-TAIN ?
...AND HE MAY BE ABLE TO TELL US HOW TO PUT A STOP TO THIS.
GMM MMF ...
MMF ...

WE CAN'T LEAVE SAJI LIKE THIS FOREVER.
QUICK-LY!
WE MUST HURRY!
AH ... YES!
ARE YOU READY, OYOU?
PLEASE, HOLD MY HANDS TIGHTLY.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
HERE WE GO!
FWOOSH!
.....

F... FATHER!
...
PLEASE FORGIVE MY INTRUSION.
OH ...
IT WOULD SEEM THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR ALL THAT ...
EVERYONE, YOU MAY TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
IT APPEARS THAT OYOU HAS SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH ME.
WELL, WELL! IT'S OYOU!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE LAST MET!
YOU CAME AT A GOOD TIME.
UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOM IN FULL BLOOM ...
WE WERE JUST ENJOYING AN OPEN-AIR TEA CEREMONY.
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP?

HMM ...
THOSE STRONG WINDS ...
AND ALSO THE CHERRY BLOSSOM THAT WENT INTO FULL BLOOM IN JUST ONE NIGHT.
I HAD MY SUSPICIONS ...
BUT IT SEEMS THAT "THE PASSING DEMON" HAS DESCENDED UPON EDO .....
PASSING DEMON ...?
HE HAS THE APPEARANCE OF A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN...
HE IS ETHEREAL, HAVING NO SUBSTANCE ...
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU HAVE NOT HEARD OF HIM...
THE LAST TIME HE APPEARED WAS ABOUT ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
HE WAS ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF SPRING GODS...
FROM BEFORE TIME AS WE KNOW IT...
NOW HE HAS FALLEN... HE POSSESSES, DELUDES AND DISRUPTS THE DARKNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART FOR HIS OWN AMUSEMENT. HE HAS BECOME A CRUEL DEMON.

THE DARKNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART ...?
YES ...
FOR EXAMPLE, ENVY, JEALOUSY, DISSATISFACTION, REGRET, HATRED, DESPAIR, LAZINESS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS ...
THE STRONGER SUCH EMOTIONS ARE, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THE DEMON TO POSSESS THAT PERSON.
AND THEN, THE DARKNESS THAT HAS BEEN HELD BACK IS SUDDENLY RELEASED.
IT PUSHES ASIDE THEIR SANITY.
OYOU, YOU ARE A MONSTER !!
A MONSTER THAT CAUSES ME TO SUFFER!
IS THERE A WAY TO SAVE THOSE THAT HAVE LOST THEIR SANITY?
WELL ...
FOR MOST PEOPLE, BEING POSSESSED BY THE PASSING DEMON IS THE END.
ONCE HE GRASPS THE DARKNESS IN THEIR HEART, OR THEY HAVE LOST THEIR SANITY, THEY DRIVE THEMSELVES TO THEIR OWN DEMISE.
THEY EITHER COMMIT SUICIDE OR STOP EATING AND GRADUALLY WEAKEN AND DIE...

FATHER, IS THERE ANY WAY TO DEFEAT THE PASSING DEMON?
THERE IS NOT.
AGAINST HIM, NO INCANTATION WILL WORK.
THAT IS BECAUSE HE HAS NO SUBSTANCE, LIKE THE WIND.
JUST LIKE THE STORMS OF SPRING, WE CAN ONLY WAIT FOR HIM TO PASS US BY...
MFF!
GNN!
MMF ...
GMMF ...!!
MUMBLE MUMBLE
GIMME SOME MONEY
GIMME SOME MONEY ...
THE FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING, SO GIMME SOME MONEY ...

I'LL GIVE YOU LOTS OF MONEY!
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, SO UNTIE THESE CORDS, WILL YOU?
GOOD BOY, SUTE!
MMF ...
WHAT'S UP, MISTER ?
SURE!
EVEN THOUGH WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO.
THAT'S A SHAME, OYOU.
.....
...BUT THE WHOLE TIME, THE DISCONTENT INSIDE HIM WAS GROWING MORE AND MORE EACH DAY...
...I MEAN, HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE ...
JUST AS I THOUGHT, HE WAS A PETTY, HALF-HEARTED IGNORAMUS!
IN THE END, HE REAPED WHAT HE SOWED FOR HAVING SUCH OVERWHELMING DARKNESS IN HIS HEART.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM.
YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON SAJI

I AM THE ONE THAT DID THIS TO SAJI
HUH ?
IN FACT, I AM THE ONE THAT HAS GREAT DARKNESS IN MY HEART.
SAJI IS THE ONE THAT ALWAYS TOOK THAT BURDEN FOR ME
HE ACCEPTED AND HELPED EASE THAT DARKNESS.
SINCE MEETING SAJI...
..I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES HE'S SAVED ME...
IT'S AS IF SAJI WAS ATTACKED BY THE PASSING DEMON IN MY PLACE.
BUT DESPITE ALL THE KINDNESS HE'S SHOWN AND ALL THE WAYS HE'S TAKEN CARE OF ME...
OYOU ...
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH PAIN I WAS CAUSING HIM.
BUT TOUKA ...
I WON'T GIVE UP ON HIM ...

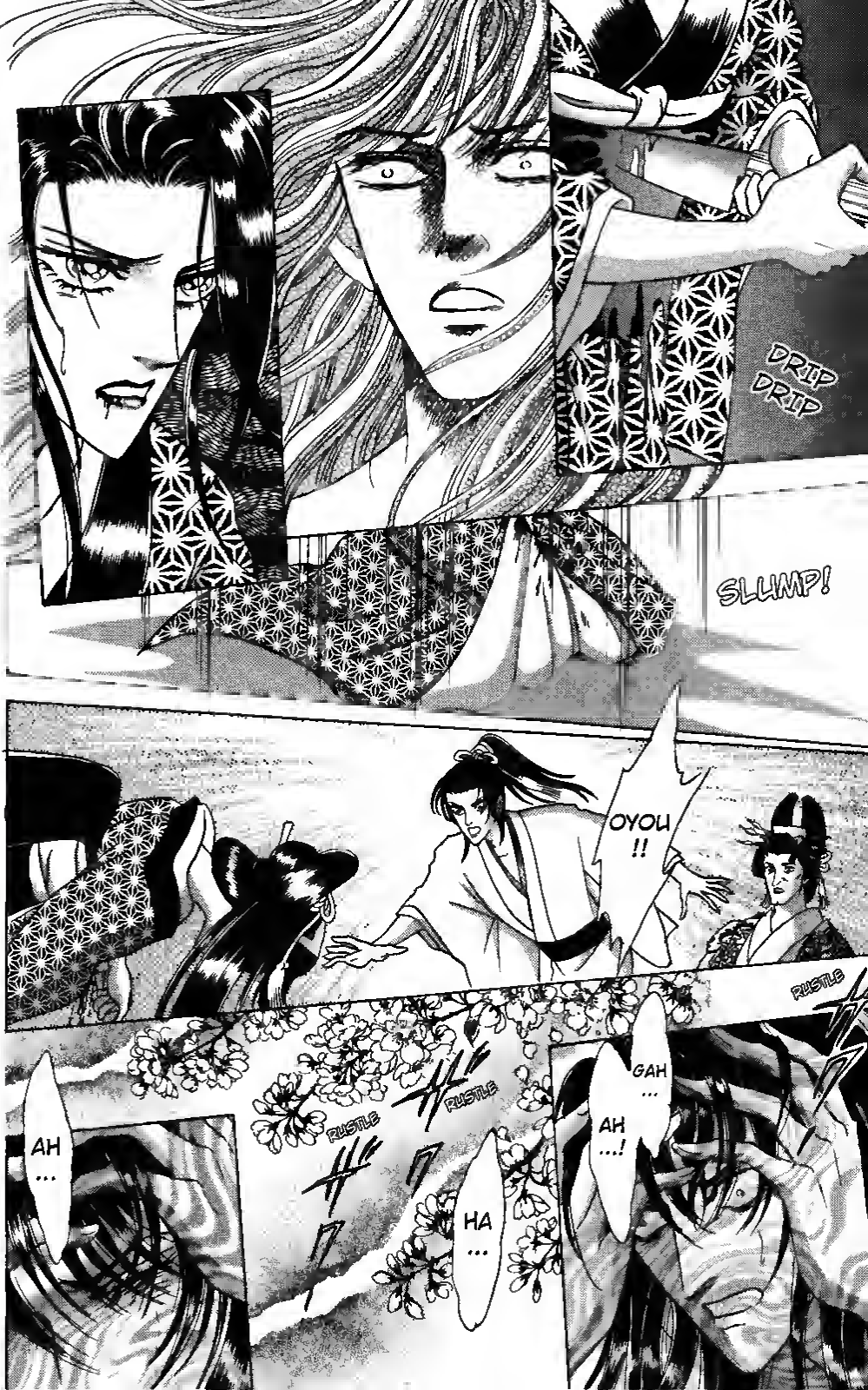
SAJI WON'T LOSE TO THE DARKNESS IN HIS HEART.
I WON'T GIVE UP.
I WILL RETURN SAJI TO HIS TRUE SELF.
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
EEK !!
AAAH !!
WAAAAH!!
WHERE'S OYOU!?
OYOU !!
COME OUT HERE!
YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME!!
I'LL KILL YOU !!
IF ANYONE GETS BETWEEN ME AND OYOU, I'LL KILL THEM TOO!

EEEK !!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING !!
WHERE ARE YOU HIDING OYOU!?
THAT MAN HAS THE FACE OF DEATH ...!!
IT'S THE FACE OF DEATH !!
STOP, SAJI.
OYOU ...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING !?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU...

OYOU ...
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND ...
I... ...AM GOING TO KILL YOU
I WILL KILL YOU, THEN I WILL KILL MYSELF .....
YES ...
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE YOU MINE ...
THE ONLY WAY ...
COME ON... OYOU ...
BECOME MINE AND MINE ALONE...
DIE WITH ME!!
GWAAAH!

DAMN IT...
YOU MONSTER FOX ...
YOU DARE STAND IN MY WAY!?
CLATTER
CLATTER
BAM!
OYOU ?
SAJI, I WON'T CAUSE YOU ANY MORE TROUBLE.
MY LIFE, THAT IS!
IF YOU WANT IT, IT'S YOURS!
IF YOU WANT IT...
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU ...

KRRSSH!!


DRIP
DRIP
SLUMP!
OYOU
!!
RUSTLE
GAH
...
AH
...!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HA
...
AH
...

AAAAAAAAGHH!!
AHH...
AH...
O...
OYOU...

OYOU !!
OYOU !!
HANG IN THERE!
DON'T YOU DIE ON ME!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT !!
I WAS OUT OF MY MIND !!
PLEASE ...
PLEASE ...
OYOU ...!

SA... JI...
DO YOU UNDER-STAND ?
SEE ...
THE ONE WHO DELUDED YOU...
THE PASSING DEMON... HE'S LEAVING ...
WHOOOSH!
THAT'LL TEACH HIM!
I'VE WON!
OYOU ...?
SMIRK

I'D RATHER YOU CALLED A FINE PERFORMANCE NEEDED FOR SUCH DRASTIC MEASURES
THANKS TO THAT, YOU'VE RETURNED TO NORMAL HAVEN'T YOU?
IT WAS JUST A CRAZY FARCE! LIKE SOME MONKEY SHOW!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF !?
O... OYOU ...
WHY YOU ...!
YOU SET ME UP!
I JUST PUT THREE PICTURE BOOKS IN MY SASH.
AND THE KNIFE IN YOUR STOMACH ...
HOW ABOUT THAT BLOOD?
THE BLOOD WAS SOMETHING I MADE FROM PUTTING ROUGE DISSOLVED IN WATER INTO A BAG MADE FROM OIL PAPER.
WHAT WAS THE BLOOD IN YOUR MOUTH?
OH, THIS?
BLEH
I JUST BIT THE END OF MY TONGUE A LITTLE.
IT REALLY HURT...
EVEN SO, I STILL GOT A LITTLE CUT ON MY STOMACH.
OH... IT HURTS ...
...
YOU... BELIEVE IN... ME?
BUT I THINK IT CERTAINLY WAS A BIT SHAMELESS FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT ...
IF I HADN'T BELIEVED IN YOU, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

THAT'S RIGHT, I BELIEVED IN YOU FROM THE BEGINNING.
THAT YOU COULD REGAIN YOUR TRUE SELF THROUGH YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
ALL I DID WAS GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO DO THAT.
HEY, OYOU ...
AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY THE PASSING GHOST AND LOSING MY SANITY...
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.
AT THAT TIME I SAID AND DID SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU...
I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO SAVE MYSELF.
I COULDN'T SUPPRESS IT OR RESTRAIN MYSELF...
I'M SO PITIFUL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I DID.
AND THAT I COULD SAY SUCH THINGS TO YOU.
WELL, PERHAPS THAT'S TRUE ...
BUT IT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE YOU WERE CONTINUOUSLY SCREAMING...
"I LOVE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART."
"I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER AND EVER" ...

OUCH!
ALL OF THAT IS IN THE PAST NOW.
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW, SAJI.
OYOU ...
YOU'RE MAKING DINNER?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
THANKS TO YOU, I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL IN DAYS.
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
I'M PREP-ARING DINNER.
OYOU ...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
SHEESH... WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITHOUT ME?
AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, THE DARKNESS OF THE HEART SHOULD BE PLACED AWAY IN THE DARKNESS, IN THE SHADOWS.
CHOP CHOP
I CAN'T BE HELPED! I'VE NEVER MADE DINNER BEFORE!
DON'T DO THINGS THAT ARE NOT IN YOUR NATURE!
YOU'RE GONNA HURT YOUR-SELF!
GIMME THAT!
IT'S BEEN BURNT!
PTUH!
GEEZ ...
THIS IS AWFUL ...!
IT WOULD BE FOOLISH FOR US TO UNECESSARILY PRY INTO EACH OTHER'S DARKNESS ANY MORE THAN WE ALREADY HAVE.

IN THIS EVEN-ING'S WIND ...
...THE CHERRY BLOSSOM WILL SCATTER.
END OF VOLUME VI: SPRING STORM

I AM REALLY HAPPY ABOUT NOT ONLY SAJI'S SANITY ...
BUT ALSO THE NORMAL LIFESTYLE WHICH CAME BACK,
AND I'M GRATEFUL, SO IT'S OK NOW ...
IT'S ALRIGHT ...
ALL OF THAT...
IS IN THE PAST NOW.

JOUR COMICS
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